



AL-HAQ

THE SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION  
OF GAZA'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM:

# A PATTERN OF GENOCIDE





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## Dedication

This report is dedicated to the healthcare workers sacrificing their lives in service of the Palestinian people of Gaza.

The genocide in Gaza represents the deadliest conflict for aid workers, UN personnel, and journalists alike. With this report, we also pay respect to their tireless pursuit of justice, dignity and humanity when faced with Israel's widespread and systematic commission of inhumane acts.

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## INTRODUCTION

Israel's military assault on the Gaza Strip since 7 October 2023 has devastated every sector of Palestinian society, entrenching the settler colonial apartheid regime and fragmentation of the Palestinian territory. Israel has systematically targeted and attacked the healthcare system to the point of its collapse in a campaign of genocide. The Israeli Occupying Forces' (IOF) targeting of hospitals and health centers, the denial of adequate medical provisions into and around the Gaza Strip, and the abduction, torture, and killing of medical personnel is evidence of Israel's genocidal intent to: (i) inflict conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, and (ii) impose measures intended to prevent Palestinian births in the Gaza Strip.

The concerted policy to destroy the healthcare system in Gaza is directly and causally linked to statements made by Israeli officials. From early on in the military assault against Gaza, the Israeli government and military placed a target on hospitals in Gaza, distorting principles of international law to justify genocidal violence against the Palestinian people.<sup>1</sup> In October 2023, IOF spokesperson Daniel Hagari claimed at a news conference that " Hamas has turned hospitals into command and control centers and hideouts for Hamas terrorists and

1 UN HRC, "Anatomy of a Genocide," Report of the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese, A/HRC/55/73 (25 March 2024), <<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session55/advance-versions/a-hrc-55-73-a-uv.pdf>>, ("Israel's executive and military leadership and soldiers have intentionally distorted *jus in bello* principles, subverting their protective functions, in an attempt to legitimize genocidal violence against the Palestinian people.").



commanders.”<sup>2</sup> In November 2023, The IOF published and deleted a post on social media platform X calling ambulances and hospitals “terrorist infrastructure” and “legitimate military targets.”<sup>3</sup> Indeed, characterizations of the healthcare system in the Gaza Strip as “terrorist infrastructure” and employing the argument that militant groups were using hospitals and displaced people inside as “human shields” permeated Israeli society, with a group of 45 influential Jewish rabbis in Israel issuing a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stating that there is no religious or moral objection to bombing Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza.<sup>4</sup> The lack of accountability for statements and actions of the Israeli leadership and military personnel reinforced the increasing acceptance of violence against Palestinians and allowed the uninterrupted assault against Gaza’s healthcare system to become systematic and institutionalized.<sup>5</sup>

Through a documented pattern of: (i) intentional deprivation of resources; (ii) intimidation; (iii) direct targeting; (iv) siege; and (v) invasion, the IOF systematically targeted Gaza’s hospitals to render them out of service, destroy their facilities, and prevent Palestinian access to critical medical care amidst intensifying Israeli airstrikes and destruction of civilian residences, schools, shelters, mosques, churches, and other protected areas under international humanitarian law.

Israeli forces began their systematic campaign to destroy the healthcare system in Gaza, which was already operating at a reduced capacity with a shortage of medical supplies and fuel, as early as 8 October 2023.<sup>6</sup> Israel focused on targeting hospitals in the north of the Gaza Strip (October to December 2023), working its way down to hospitals in the middle area (December 2023 to January 2024) before reaching all the way to hospitals in the south (January to March 2024) and

- 2 “Israeli military says Hamas hiding tunnels, operation centres in Gaza hospital”, *Reuters* (27 October 2023), <<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-military-says-hamas-hiding-tunnels-operations-centres-gaza-hospital-2023-10-27/>>.
- 3 Law for Palestine, *Database of Israeli Incitement to Genocide: Armed Forces* (15 January 2024), No. 9, <<https://law4palestine.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/3-Database-of-Israeli-Incitement-to-Genocide-15th-January-2024-ARMED-FORCES.pdf>>.
- 4 @Nimrod\_Flash, X (30 October 2023), <[https://x.com/Nimrod\\_Flash/status/1719080045887521054](https://x.com/Nimrod_Flash/status/1719080045887521054)>; Law for Palestine, *Database of Israeli Incitement to Genocide: Public Expressions* (15 January 2024), No. 25, <<https://law4palestine.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/5-Database-of-Israeli-Incitement-to-Genocide-15th-January-2024-Public-Expressions.pdf>>.
- 5 UNGA, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel*, A/79/232 (11 September 2024), paras. 89, 103.
- 6 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #1* (7 October 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/escalation-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-1>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #3* (9 October 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/escalation-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-3>>; UNGA, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel*, A/79/232 (11 September 2024), para. 6.



doubling back to inflict further damage on hospitals throughout the Gaza Strip (March to September 2024) and again targeting the northern governorate of Gaza in the extermination campaign of Jabalia refugee camp and surrounding areas (October to December 2024).<sup>7</sup>

From 7 October to 9 October 2023, the IOF began targeting the Indonesian Hospital in Beit Lahiya, Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, Al-Quds Hospital in Gaza City, and several Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) facilities, killing six healthcare workers.<sup>8</sup> By November 2023, the IOF bombed 30 out of 36 total hospitals in Gaza, some repeatedly, raided Al-Shifa Hospital, the largest medical complex in the Gaza Strip, and blew up its medicine warehouse.<sup>9</sup> From October 2023 to January 2024, the IOF killed healthcare workers at a rate of five healthcare workers per day.<sup>10</sup> By the end of January 2024, the World Health Organization (WHO) recorded at least 342 attacks on healthcare in Gaza, leaving only 13 out of 36 hospitals in Gaza partially functional, and at least 61 health workers were detained or arrested by the IOF.<sup>11</sup> By July 2024, the destruction of the healthcare system was so severe, and the spread of diseases so extensive, that the poliovirus made a resurgence in the Gaza Strip for the first time since

7 *Ibid*; UN OCHA, *Humanitarian Situation Update #247 | Gaza Strip* (17 December 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-247-gaza-strip>>.

8 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #1* (7 October 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/escalation-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-1>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #3* (9 October 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/escalation-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-3>>.

9 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #41* (16 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-41>>; Hanna Duggal, Mohamed Hussein and Soha Elghany, "Against Every Instinct" *Al Jazeera* (23 January 2024), <<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/longform/2024/1/23/how-doctors-in-gaza-persevere-amid-israel-attacks>>; Maziar Motamedi, "Explainer: Why is Gaza's al-Shifa Hospital so important for the Israeli army?", *Al Jazeera* (15 November 2023), <<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/15/why-is-gazas-al-shifa-hospital-so-important-for-the-israeli-army>>.

10 MAP UK 'There are no more words' - Six months of Israel's total siege and bombardment of Gaza leaves tens of thousands dead, the healthcare system in ruins, and a starving population, (8 April 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/there-are-no-more-words-six-months-israels-total-siege-and-bombardment-gaza-leaves-tens-thousands-dead-healthcare-system-ruins-and-starving-population#:;>>; UN OCHA, *Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel - reported impact | Day 180* (3 April 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-reported-impact-day-180?>>; @HCWWatch, X (13 March 2024), <<https://x.com/HCWWatch/status/1767666330252009517>>; @HCWWatch, X (3 January 2024), <<https://x.com/HCWWatch/status/1742362647822217366?s=20>>; Diakonia, *2023-2024 Hostilities and Escalating Violence in the oPt | Account of Events*, (12 January 2024) (noting 326 health workers killed between 7 October 2023 and 7 January 2024), <<https://www.diakonia.se/ihl/news/2023-hostilities-in-gaza-and-israel-factual-account-of-events/>>.

11 WHO, *oPt Emergency Situation Update*, Issue 22 (30 January 2024), <[https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep\\_-\\_issue\\_22.pdf?ua=1](https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep_-_issue_22.pdf?ua=1)>; UN News, *Nearly 600 attacks on healthcare in Gaza and West Bank since war began: WHO* (5 January 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/01/1145317>>; WHO, *Surveillance System For Attacks on Health Care (SSA)* <<https://extranet.who.int/ssa/Index.aspx>> (last accessed 30 December 2024).



it was eradicated 25 years ago.<sup>12</sup> By 25 September 2024, the WHO recorded at least 516 attacks on healthcare across the OPT, and at least 128 health workers remained in IOF captivity amid months of health workers from Gaza being kidnapped, arrested, detained, and tortured in Israeli military prison camps.<sup>13</sup> As of October 2024, every hospital in Gaza has been destroyed, damaged, or rendered out of service, and no hospital remains fully functional.<sup>14</sup>

Israel's systematic campaign against Gaza's healthcare infrastructure as a whole is exemplified by the targeted destruction of Al-Shifa Hospital in particular. Al-Shifa Hospital is significant not only because it is the largest hospital in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), but because it is older than Israel itself. Al-Shifa Hospital, established in 1946, operated as the central and most important referral hospital in Gaza, and housed a surgical building, as well as internal medicine, pediatrics, gynecology, ophthalmology, and obstetrics departments.<sup>15</sup> Al-Shifa was the only teaching hospital in Gaza, with a 750-bed capacity, over 26 operating theaters, 32 intensive care rooms, a central laboratory, and a 62-bed emergency center, providing services to 250,000 people annually, including some 17,000 surgical operations.<sup>16</sup> The medical complex, in addition to being the largest and most advanced hospital in the OPT, frequently served as a refuge for displaced Palestinians seeking shelter during Israel's frequent military assaults on the Gaza

12 WHO, UNICEF, *Variant Type 2 poliovirus in Gaza – Situation Report*, Issue 1 (16 July - 5 August 2024), <[https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Polio\\_Sitrep\\_-\\_issue\\_1.pdf?ua=1](https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Polio_Sitrep_-_issue_1.pdf?ua=1)>; UNICEF, *Humanitarian pauses vital for critical polio vaccination campaign in the Gaza Strip* (16 August 2024), <<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/humanitarian-pauses-vital-critical-polio-vaccination-campaign-gaza-strip>>.

13 WHO, *oPt Emergency Situation Update*, Issue 46 (24 September 2024), <[https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep\\_46b.pdf?ua=1](https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep_46b.pdf?ua=1)>; WHO, *oPt Emergency Situation Update*, Issue 45 (17 September 2024), <[https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep\\_45b\\_correction.pdf?ua=1](https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep_45b_correction.pdf?ua=1)>; HRW, *Israel: Palestinian Healthcare Workers Tortured*, (26 August 2024), <<https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/08/26/israel-palestinian-healthcare-workers-tortured>>; WHO, *Surveillance System For Attacks on Health Care* (SSA) <<https://extranet.who.int/ssa/Index.aspx>> (last accessed 30 December 2024).

14 UNRWA, *Situation Report #140* (27 September 2024), <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-140-situation-gaza-strip-and-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem>.

15 Maziar Motamedi, "Why is Gaza's al-Shifa Hospital so important for the Israeli army?", *Al Jazeera* (15 November 2023), <<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/15/why-is-gazas-al-shifa-hospital-so-important-for-the-israeli-army>>.

16 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #149* (3 April 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-149>>.

Strip over the last 17 years.<sup>17</sup>

Through a pattern of intimidation, direct targeting, siege, and invasion, Israeli forces slowly deprived the Al-Shifa Hospital of the fuel, electricity, and resources it needed to provide critical medical care to Palestinians under Israeli bombardment and siege.<sup>18</sup>

The Israeli targeting of Al-Shifa set the precedent for subsequent attacks on hospitals throughout the Gaza Strip, imposing a systematic pattern to destroy the healthcare system in Gaza and deprive the Palestinian people of access to critical medical care. As Israel bombs and besieges the Gaza Strip, it exacerbates the need for life-saving medical care while systematically depriving the Palestinian population of access to it in their most critical time of need. The targeting of Gaza's healthcare system is intended to threaten the survival of the Palestinian population in Gaza as a whole, and serves as further evidence of Israel's acts of genocide.<sup>19</sup>

- 17 Al-Haq, *Destruction of al-Rimal Neighborhood in Gaza City, an Attack on the Economic Existence of a National Group* (19 October 2023), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/21943.html>>; Al-Haq, *Gaza Hospitals Are Collapsing and Can Be Targeted Anytime: The International Community Must Intervene and Stop More Israeli Massacres of Palestinian Civilians* (2 November 2023), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/22075.html>>; Al-Haq, *Targeting of Health Facilities in the Gaza Strip May Amount to War Crimes* (25 July 2014), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/6626.html>>; Abdelhakim Abu Riash, Linah Alsaafin, "Palestinians take refuge at Shifa Hospital amid Israeli bombing", *Al Jazeera* (14 October 2023), <<https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/gallery/2023/10/14/photos-displaced-palestinians-staying-the-shifa-hospital-grounds>>.
- 18 Al-Haq, *Israel's Last Evacuation Order Requires Urgent International Intervention to Protect Gaza's Civilian Population, Who Have Nowhere Left to Shelter* (29 October 2023), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/22041.html>>; Al-Haq, *PHROC Position Paper: Israel's Military Offensive on the Gaza Strip Breaches Law on the Use of Force on Self-Defence Ad Bellum and is a Continuing Act of Aggression* (6 December 2023), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/22075.html>>; Al-Haq, *Gaza Hospitals Are Collapsing and Can Be Targeted Anytime: The International Community Must Intervene and Stop More Israeli Massacres of Palestinian Civilians* (2 November 2023), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/22075.html>> ("While facing threats of being targeted, on 31 October, the Palestinian Health Ministry issued a last warning before the shutdown of the main electrical generator in the Al-Shifa Medical Complex, stating that there are only a few hours left before going out of service."); UNRWA, *UNRWA and WHO deliver medical supplies to Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City* (8 November 2023), <<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/unrwa-and-who-deliver-medical-supplies-al-shifa-hospital-gaza-city>>; UN OHCHR, *Israel/Gaza: UN experts deplore attacks on Al-Shifa Hospital, urge States to stop the massacre* (3 April 2024), <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/04/israelgaza-un-experts-deplore-attacks-al-shifa-hospital-urge-states>>; UN Palestine, *Israel continues to block aid into northern Gaza; UN sending team to shattered Al-Shifa Hospital* (2 April 2024), <<https://palestine.un.org/en/264880-israel-continues-block-aid-northern-gaza-un-sending-team-shattered-al-shifa-hospital>>; UN News, *Gaza: 'Systematic dismantling of healthcare must end' says WHO* (6 April 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1148316>>.
- 19 UN HRC, "Anatomy of a Genocide," *Report of the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese*, A/HRC/55/73 (25 March 2024), para. 38, <<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session55/advance-versions/a-hrc-55-73-auf.pdf>>; UN The Question of Palestine, *Remarks by the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres* (12 July 2024), <<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/sg-remarks-unrwa-12jul24/>> ("Nowhere is safe. Everywhere is a potential killing zone.").



Sections II and III of this report will provide a legal analysis of Israel's systematic attacks on Gaza's healthcare system as acts of genocide, noting as well that the violation of the protected status of hospitals and healthcare facilities also constitutes war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law.<sup>20</sup> Section IV will provide a summary of the facts, including a timeline of the pattern of destruction, as well as a focus on the killing of healthcare workers and attacks on healthcare service vehicles. Section V documents the systematic nature of the attacks to deliberately eliminate the healthcare system in the Gaza Strip, through a pattern of: (i) deprivation of resources; (ii) intimidation of civilians, patients, and healthcare workers; (iii) direct targeting of healthcare infrastructure; (iv) siege imposed on hospitals; and (v) invasion and destruction of hospitals, with Section (vi) concluding. This report primarily focuses on Al-Shifa, Indonesian, Kamal Adwan, Al-Awda, Al-Aqsa, Al-Amal, and Nasser hospitals. It cites key events and attacks on Gaza's healthcare infrastructure documented and verified by Al-Haq's Forensic Architecture Unit.<sup>21</sup>

Israel's attacks on protected hospital zones and medical personnel leaves no safe place where the Palestinian people can survive in Gaza.<sup>22</sup> As Israel subjects the 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza to genocide, we urgently request States to immediately intervene to end the ongoing Israeli genocide in Gaza and address the systematic

20 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (7 July 1998), Art 6(a), (b), and (c), Art 8(2)(b)(ix), Art 8(2)(e) (iv), Art 7(1) [hereinafter "Rome Statute"]; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 25: Medical Personnel*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 28: Medical Units*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 29: Medical Transports*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 30: Persons and Objects Displaying the Distinctive Emblem*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 35: Hospital and Safety Zones and Neutralized Zones*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 54: Attacks against Objects Indispensable to the Survival of the Civilian Population*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 55: Access for Humanitarian Relief to Civilians in Need*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 87: Humane Treatment*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 90: Torture, Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 93: Rape and Other Forms of Sexual Violence*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 96: Hostage-Taking*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 98: Enforced Disappearance*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 99: Deprivation of Liberty*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 103: Collective Punishments*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 110: Treatment and Care of the Wounded, Sick, and Shipwrecked*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 113: Treatment of the Dead*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 114: Return of the Remains and Personal Effects of the Dead*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 115: Disposal of the Dead*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 116: Accounting for the Dead*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 117: Accounting for Missing Persons*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 118: Provision of Basic Necessities to Persons Deprived of their Liberty*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 124: ICRC Access to Persons Deprived of their Liberty*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 131: Treatment of Displaced Persons*; OHCHR, *Gaza: UN experts decry bombing of hospitals and schools as crimes against humanity, call for prevention of genocide* (19 October 2023), <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/10/gaza-un-experts-decry-bombing-hospitals-and-schools-crimes-against-humanity>>.


21 Forensic Architecture, *Destruction of Medical Infrastructure in Gaza* (20 December 2023), <<https://forensic-architecture.org/investigation/destruction-of-medical-infrastructure-in-gaza>>.

22 See Al-Haq, *How to Hide a Genocide: The Role of Evacuation Orders and Safe Zones in Israel's Genocidal Campaign in Gaza* (December 2024), <<https://www.alhaq.org/publications/25781.html>>.

targeting of medical personnel and hospitals, where Israel continues to carry out massacres of the displaced in areas meant to heal the sick and wounded, ultimately causing the collapse of Gaza's healthcare system and rendering no place safe for Palestinians to survive.<sup>23</sup>

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23 UN OCHA, *UN relief chief: 'No place safe' for civilians in southern Gaza*, (7 December 2023), <<https://www.unocha.org/news/un-relief-chief-no-place-safe-civilians-southern-gaza>>; UN, Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, *As Israel's Aerial Bombardments Intensify, 'There Is No Safe Place in Gaza', Humanitarian Affairs Chief Warns Security Council* (12 January 2024), <<https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15564.doc.htm>>; UN, *The Question of Palestine, Remarks by the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres* (12 July 2024), <<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/sg-remarks-unrwa-12jul24/>>; UN OCHA, *"We have said repeatedly that no place is safe in Gaza"*, (27 May 2024), <<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/statement-on-gaza-27may24/>>; Abdelhakim Abu Riash, "Israel continues to attack hospitals in Gaza, killing at least 8", *Al Jazeera* (7 Nov. 2023), <<https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2023/11/7/israel-continues-to-attack-hospitals-in-gaza-city-killing-at-least-eight>>; "Israeli military says 90 people killed in Gaza's al-Shifa Hospital raid", *Al Jazeera*, (20 March 2024), <<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/3/20/israeli-military-says-90-people-killed-in-gazas-al-shifa-hospital-raid>>.



## II ISRAEL'S TARGETING OF GAZA'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM CONSTITUTES GENOCIDE AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

### A. Legal Framework

Genocide is a process, not an act. As Israel targets hospitals, rendering them inoperable or incapable of providing life-saving functions to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip while subjecting civilians to continuous bombardment and creating an increasingly dire need for medical treatment, Israel is waging a campaign of genocide against the Palestinian people.

The prohibition on genocide is a non-derogable *jus cogens* norm. All States are bound by an *erga omnes* obligation to prevent or punish genocide or genocidal acts under customary international law (CIL). The 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide ('the Genocide Convention') is a written agreement codifying the crime of genocide. In addition to punishing actors who commit acts of genocide, the Genocide Convention expressly criminalizes complicity in genocide, giving rise to third States' obligation and culpability in the crime of genocide even if they are not directly orchestrating the atrocity.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide (9 December 1948), Art. 3, <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/pt/ihl-treaties/genocide-conv-1948/article-3?activeTab=>> [hereinafter "Genocide Convention"].

Furthermore, there is no justification for the crime of genocide.<sup>25</sup> Therefore, a State may not raise a self-defense argument to justify acts of genocide.

The Convention defines genocide as “any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group,” as such:

- a. Killing members of the group;
- b. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- c. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- d. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- e. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.<sup>26</sup>

In order to establish the crime of genocide arising from one of the above actions, the intent to commit such an act must be satisfied by both *dolus generalis* (a general intent to carry out the criminal act) and *dolus specialis* (a specific intent to destroy the target group as such).<sup>27</sup> These two components establish the *mens rea*, or the intent behind committing the crime. The double-component intent requirement to establish the crime of genocide demonstrates that genocide is a goal-oriented crime. This means that a “genocidaire may intend more than he is realistically able to accomplish.”<sup>28</sup>

Specific intent to commit genocide may be established by direct or indirect evidence. Direct evidence could include statements from government officials

25 UNGA, “Anatomy of a Genocide,” Report of the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese, A/HRC/55/73 (25 March 2024), para. 15, <<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session55/advance-versions/a-hrc-55-73-auv.pdf>>.

26 Genocide Convention, Art. 2, <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/pt/ihl-treaties/genocide-conv-1948/article-2?activeTab=>>>; Rome Statute, Art. 6, <<https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/2024-05/Rome-Statute-eng.pdf>>.

27 Kai Ambos, “What does ‘intent to destroy’ in genocide mean?”, 91 *Int’l Rev. of the Red Cross* No. 876 (December 2009), <<https://international-review.icrc.org/sites/default/files/irrc-876-ambos.pdf>>; UNGA, “Anatomy of a Genocide,” Report of the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese, A/HRC/55/73 (25 Mar. 2024), paras. 17-18, <<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session55/advance-versions/a-hrc-55-73-auv.pdf>>.

28 Kai Ambos, “What does ‘intent to destroy’ in genocide mean?”, 91 *Int’l Rev. of the Red Cross* No. 876, p. 835 (Dec. 2009), <<https://international-review.icrc.org/sites/default/files/irrc-876-ambos.pdf>>.



or military commanders, or official documents.<sup>29</sup> Indirect evidence comes from examining patterns of conduct to infer the presence of specific intent.<sup>30</sup> If specific intent is inferred, the patterns of conduct must be to such a degree that they “only point to the existence of” genocidal intent, and the existence of that intent results in “the only inference that could reasonably be drawn.”<sup>31</sup>

The evidentiary threshold for genocidal acts differs depending on the crime committed. Evidence of the *result* is the threshold required to establish the crime of genocide as it pertains to: (a) killing, (b) inflicting harm, and (e) transferring children.<sup>32</sup> Evidence of *intent to achieve*, rather than result, is the evidentiary threshold to establish the crime of: (c) conditions of life calculated to bring about physical destruction, and (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births.<sup>33</sup> Thus, simply taking actions to achieve rather than actually achieving these last two crimes is sufficient to establish genocide.

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29 UNGA, “Anatomy of a Genocide,” *Report of the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967*, Francesca Albanese, A/HRC/55/73 (25 March 2024), para. 18, <<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session55/advance-versions/a-hrc-55-73-auv.pdf>>.

30 *Ibid*, para. 48.

31 *Ibid*, para. 18; Declaration of William A. Schabas in Support of Plaintiff’s Motion for Preliminary Injunction, para. 16 (16 November 2023), *DCI Palestine v. Biden*, (N.D. Cal. 2024), <<https://ccrjustice.org/sites/default/files/attach/2023/11/Declaration>>; *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro)*, Judgment, I.C.J. Reports 2007, p. 43, <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/91/091-20070226-JUD-01-00-EN.pdf> para. 373; *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Croatia v. Serbia)*, Judgment, I.C.J. Reports 2015, p. 3, <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/118/118-20150203-JUD-01-00-EN.pdf> para. 148.

32 UNGA, “Anatomy of a Genocide,” *Report of the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967*, Francesca Albanese, A/HRC/55/73 (25 March 2024), para. 19, <<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session55/advance-versions/a-hrc-55-73-auv.pdf>>.

33 *Ibid*.



## B. Intent to destroy Gaza's healthcare system evidence of *Dolus Specialis* to deliberately inflict conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of Palestinians in Gaza

Direct and indirect evidence establishes that the Israeli military and government officials have demonstrated specific intent to destroy Gaza's healthcare system, an act of genocide aiming to destroy Palestinian life in Gaza. Israeli officials have engaged in an accelerated campaign to dehumanize Palestinians and turn civilians into targets with the passive acquiescence of the international community, leading to a "systematic dismantling of healthcare" in the Gaza Strip.<sup>34</sup>

The IOF's attempts to tarnish Gaza's healthcare system as "terrorist infrastructure"<sup>35</sup> occurred against the backdrop of genocidal statements painting the entire civilian population as terrorists who must be eliminated, as well as calls for razing all of Gaza to the ground. Direct evidence of specific intent to commit genocide began as early as 9 October 2023, when Israeli Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant stated that Israel is "imposing a complete siege on Gaza. No electricity, no food, no water, no fuel. Everything is closed. We are fighting human animals and we are acting accordingly."<sup>36</sup> The following day, on 10 October 2023, Gallant stated in a speech to soldiers that "Gaza won't return to what it was before. We will eliminate everything. If it doesn't take one day, it will take a week. It will take weeks or even months, we will reach all places."<sup>37</sup> On 12 October 2023, Israeli Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, Israel Katz, stated, "Humanitarian aid into Gaza? No electrical switch will be turned on, no water hydrant will be opened and no fuel truck will enter until the Israeli abductees are returned home."<sup>38</sup> On 1 November 2023, Israeli Minister of Heritage Amichai Eliyahu, stated, "The north of the Strip – more beautiful than ever. Blowing up

34 UN News, *Gaza: 'Systematic dismantling of healthcare must end' says WHO* (6 April 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1148316>>.

35 *Supra* fn 2-4.

36 Al-Haq, *Statements by Israeli Officials, Soldiers and Civil Society on Genocide* (10 January 2024), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/22498.html>>.

37 *Ibid.*

38 *Ibid.*

and flattening everything, simply a delight for the eyes.”<sup>39</sup> In December 2023, the Metula Council head, David Azoulai, said that Gaza should be emptied and leveled and that “it should resemble the Auschwitz concentration camp.”<sup>40</sup>

The genocidal statements by Israeli officials continue, unabated, one year into the genocide. On 2 January 2024, Israeli Minister of Finance, Bezalel Smotrich, stated that:

Gaza is an incubator of two million people, who get up every morning and want to destroy, rape, and kill us all . . . It is forbidden for [Gaza] residents to return home. Secondly, we will control the Gaza Strip . . . We will be there militarily and with civilians. And in order for this to be implemented, we need to provide a humanitarian solution to the residents of Gaza, in other countries around the world. Again, like I said, a country like Israel won't have two million people who want to destroy it, that are four kilometers away.<sup>41</sup>

In June 2024, Israeli Minister of National Security Itamar Ben Gvir said that all Palestinians held in Israeli military prisons should be executed, stating:

Prisoners should be shot in the head instead of being given more food,” and “they should be killed with a shot to the head, and the bill to execute Palestinian prisoners must be passed in the third reading in the Knesset . . . Until then, we will give them minimal food to survive. I do not care about this.”<sup>42</sup>

Israeli leadership has directly singled out the healthcare system in the Gaza Strip as a target for destruction. Amid genocidal language employed at all levels of Israeli leadership in October 2023, IOF spokesperson Daniel Hagari claimed that “ Hamas has turned hospitals into command and control centers and hideouts for

39 *Ibid.*

40 “Israel should make Gaza look like Auschwitz museum – council head”, *The Jerusalem Post* (17 December 2023), <<https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-778367>>.

41 Al-Haq, *Statements by Israeli Officials, Soldiers and Civil Society on Genocide* (10 January 2024), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/22498.html>>.

42 Oliver Towfigh Nia, “Germany condemns Israeli official calling for execution of Palestinian prisoners”, *Anadolu Ajansi* (1 July 2024), <<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/germany-condemns-israeli-official-calling-for-execution-of-palestinian-prisoners/3263004>>.

Hamas terrorists and commanders.”<sup>43</sup> Giora Eiland, a Reservist Major General, and former Head of the Israeli National Security Council, and advisor to the Minister of Defense wrote in an Israeli newspaper on 19 November 2023:

It is precisely [Gaza’s] civil collapse that will bring the end of the war closer. When senior Israeli figures say in the media, ‘It’s either us or them,’ we should clarify the question of who is ‘them.’ ‘They’ are not only Hamas fighters with weapons, but also all the ‘civilian’ officials, **including hospital administrators** and school administrators, and also the **entire Gaza population** who enthusiastically supported Hamas and cheered on its atrocities on October 7th.<sup>44</sup>

Israeli politician and leader of Zehut, Moshe Feiglin, stated in a TV interview on 24 October 2023:

There is one and only one solution, which is to completely destroy Gaza, before invading it. And when I talk about destruction, I mean destruction like it was in Dresden and Hiroshima . . . But if you do to them like what was done in Dresden, like what the British did, and **if you burned everything and if you threw bombs to penetrate defensive structures, to penetrate Al-Shifa Hospital, and to destroy the ground from beneath it, without any consequences.**<sup>45</sup>

Genocidal statements by Israeli leadership were complemented with a systematic pattern of action to fulfill the stated goal of eliminating Gaza’s healthcare infrastructure. As will be demonstrated in detail in the sections below, this systematic pattern of conduct establishes indirect evidence of specific intent to commit genocide. The IOF’s campaign of systematic destruction — characterized by deprivation of resources, intimidation, direct targeting, siege, and invasion — resulted in damaging, destroying, or rendering inoperable every single one of Gaza’s 36 hospitals at some point over the course of the last 12 months, and

43 “Israeli military says Hamas hiding tunnels, operation centers in Gaza hospital”, *Reuters* (27 October 2023), <<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-military-says-hamas-hiding-tunnels-operations-centres-gaza-hospital-2023-10-27/>>.

44 Al-Haq, *Statements by Israeli Officials, Soldiers and Civil Society on Genocide* (10 January 2024), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/22498.html>>.

45 *Ibid.*



igniting the spread of disease and death throughout the Gaza Strip.<sup>46</sup> Over 22,500 Palestinians have suffered “life-changing injuries” in Gaza, including severe limb injuries, amputations, spinal cord trauma, traumatic brain injuries, and major burns.<sup>47</sup> Services such as wound care, physical therapy, and psychological support are either “inaccessible or entirely unavailable” due to continued attacks on hospitals and the killing of health workers, “leaving thousands at risk of further complications, disabilities or even death.”<sup>48</sup>

Thus, both direct evidence through statements by Israeli officials and indirect evidence through Israeli patterns of conduct demonstrate that Israeli leadership has satisfied the *dolus generalis* and *dolus specialis* of deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to destroy the healthcare system in Gaza, thus making life in Gaza unlivable. In the Gaza Strip, “nowhere is safe. Everywhere is a potential killing zone.”<sup>49</sup>

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- 46 UNRWA, *Situation Report #140* (27 September 2024), <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-140-situation-gaza-strip-and-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem>; DCI Palestine, *Covered in blisters: chickenpox and other skin diseases spread among Palestinian children in Gaza amid Israeli genocide* (5 September 2024), [https://www.dci-palestine.org/\\_covered\\_in\\_blisters\\_chickenpox\\_and\\_other\\_skin\\_diseases\\_spread\\_among\\_palestinian\\_children\\_in\\_gaza\\_amid\\_israeli\\_genocide#](https://www.dci-palestine.org/_covered_in_blisters_chickenpox_and_other_skin_diseases_spread_among_palestinian_children_in_gaza_amid_israeli_genocide#); UN News, *Gaza: Frightening increase in Hepatitis A cases* (2 August 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/08/1152791>>; WHO, *Lethal combination of hunger and disease to lead to more deaths in Gaza* (21 December 2023), <<https://www.who.int/news/item/21-12-2023-lethal-combination-of-hunger-and-disease-to-lead-to-more-deaths-in-gaza>>; “Disease could kill more in Gaza than bombs, WHO says amid Israeli siege”, *Al Jazeera* (28 Nov. 2023), <<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/28/disease-could-kill-more-in-gaza-than-bombs-who-says-amid-israeli-siege>>.
- 47 UN News, *Over 22,500 have suffered ‘life-changing injuries’ in Gaza: WHO* (12 September 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1154241>>.
- 48 *Ibid.*; WHO, *WHO analysis highlights vast unmet rehabilitation needs in Gaza*, (12 September 2024), <<https://www.who.int/news/item/12-09-2024-who-analysis-highlights-vast-unmet-rehabilitation-needs-in-gaza>>; Scott Neuman, Anas Baba, and Daniel Wood, “Israel’s monthslong siege has destroyed much of Gaza’s infrastructure”, NPR (1 June 2024), <<https://www.npr.org/2024/06/01/g-s1-1780/gaza-israel-infrastructure-water-schools-hospitals>>.
- 49 UN, *The Question of Palestine, Remarks by the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres* (12 July 2024), <<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/sg-remarks-unrwa-12jul24/>>.

## C. Intent to destroy Gaza's healthcare system evidence of *Dolus Specialis* to impose measures intended to prevent births within the group

Babies are “born into hell” in Gaza.<sup>50</sup> The systematic destruction of Gaza's healthcare system is not only an act of genocide because it is deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, but is also an act of genocide because it is imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group. An entire generation of Palestinians in Gaza could be lost if children and pregnant women remain at risk.<sup>51</sup>

The specific intent to achieve measures intended to prevent births within the group is established through direct evidence — as demonstrated above through statements by Israeli officials to target the healthcare infrastructure in the Gaza Strip — and indirect evidence — the deliberate outcome of those policies to restrict access to healthcare.

Since the start of the Israeli assault on 7 October 2023, pregnancy has become a life-threatening condition for women.<sup>52</sup> Maternity wards and hospitals have become nonfunctional, causing the lives of newborns in incubators and women with pregnancy complications to “hang by a thread.”<sup>53</sup> There has been a staggering rise in miscarriages, stillbirths, and premature labor in Gaza as women endure displacement, malnutrition, airstrikes, and witness widespread death and

50 UNICEF, *Born into hell* (19 January 2024), <<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/born-hell>>.

51 UN Palestine, *Chief of key UN agency in Gaza warns 'entire generation' could be lost* (25 June 2024), <<https://palestine.un.org/en/272408-chief-key-un-agency-gaza-warns-%E2%80%98entire-generation%E2%80%99-could-be-lost>>; MSF, *Living conditions are threatening the lives of pregnant women in Gaza* (18 July 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/living-conditions-are-threatening-lives-pregnant-women-gaza>>.

52 Bilal Irfan, Abdallah Abu Shammala, and Khaled Saleh, “Will there be a future for newborns in Gaza?”, 404 *The Lancet* (2 November 2024) 1725-1726, <<https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S0140-6736%2824%2902249-9>>.

53 @UNFPA, X (11 Oct. 2024), <<https://x.com/UNFPA/status/1844839922881982900>>; WHO, *Women and newborns bearing the brunt of the conflict in Gaza, UN agencies warn* (3 November 2023), <<https://www.who.int/news/item/03-11-2023-women-and-newborns-bearing-the-brunt-of-the-conflict-in-gaza-un-agencies-warn>>.



destruction.<sup>54</sup> The UN has recorded a 300 percent increase in miscarriages in Gaza since 7 October 2023.<sup>55</sup> Maternal deaths are also increasing due to a lack of access to adequate care, and mothers have been killed at a rate of 37 per day since 7 October 2023, amounting to two mothers killed every hour.<sup>56</sup> By December 2023, 155,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women were at high risk of malnutrition — with the number predicted to have risen exponentially since then.<sup>57</sup> In February 2024, WHO stated that 95 percent of pregnant and breastfeeding women were facing severe food poverty.<sup>58</sup>

There are an estimated 60,000 pregnant women in Gaza, with 183 women expected to give birth every day.<sup>59</sup> Women have been forced to give birth in unsanitary conditions, including in overcrowded makeshift shelters where disease spreads rapidly.<sup>60</sup> The lack of access to adequate medical care means that women are also forced to undergo emergency cesarean sections without access to anesthetics or pain relief, and doctors are compelled to perform ordinarily unnecessary hysterectomies to save the lives of young women with postpartum bleeding or

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- 54 Bilal Irfan, Abdallah Abu Shammala, and Khaled Saleh, "Will there be a future for newborns in Gaza?", 404 *The Lancet* (2 November 2024), 1725-1726 <<https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S0140-6736%2824%2902249-9>>; As early as 13 October 2023, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) warned that the lives of 37,000 pregnant women in Gaza were at risk as they would be forced to give birth without electricity, medical supplies, or access to delivery and emergency obstetric care, see IPPF, *Over 37,000 pregnant women at risk of life-threatening complications in Gaza* (12 October 2023), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/over-37000-pregnant-women-risk-life-threatening-complications-gaza>>; WHO, *Women and newborns bearing the brunt of the conflict in Gaza, UN agencies warn* (3 November 2023), <<https://www.who.int/news/item/03-11-2023-women-and-newborns-bearing-the-brunt-of-the-conflict-in-gaza-un-agencies-warn>>; ActionAid International, *Report highlights harrowing impact of war and violence on Palestinian women and girls* (2 October 2024), <<https://actionaid.org/publications/2024/new-actionaid-report-highlights-harrowing-impact-war-and-violence-palestinian#>>; UNFPA, *Impossible choices in Gaza: "Women are giving birth prematurely because of terror"*, (23 February 2024), <<https://www.unfpa.org/news/impossible-choices-gaza-%E2%80%9Cwomen-are-giving-birth-prematurely-because-terror%E2%80%9D>>.
- 55 UNFPA, *Over 300 Days of Israel's War on Gaza: UNFP's Humanitarian Response in the OPT 2024*, (7 August 2024), <<https://palestine.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/unfpa-opt-hro-august-2024.pdf>>.
- 56 International Rescue Committee, *Pregnant women and mothers in Gaza are fighting to keep themselves and their babies alive amidst healthcare collapse* (2 April 2024), <<https://www.rescue.org/press-release/pregnant-women-and-mothers-gaza-are-fighting-keep-themselves-and-their-babies-alive>>.
- 57 *Ibid.*
- 58 WHO, *Children's lives threatened by rising malnutrition in the Gaza Strip*, (19 February 2024), <<https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2024-children-s-lives-threatened-by-rising-malnutrition-in-the-gaza-strip>>.
- 59 International Rescue Committee, *Pregnant women and mothers in Gaza are fighting to keep themselves and their babies alive amidst healthcare collapse* (2 April 2024), <<https://www.rescue.org/press-release/pregnant-women-and-mothers-gaza-are-fighting-keep-themselves-and-their-babies-alive>>.
- 60 Bilal Irfan, Abdallah Abu Shammala, and Khaled Saleh, "Will there be a future for newborns in Gaza?", 404 *The Lancet* (2 Nov. 2024), 1725-1726 <<https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S0140-6736%2824%2902249-9>>.

pregnancy complications, leaving them unable to have children.<sup>61</sup>

UN agencies warned that “women, children, and newborns in Gaza are bearing the burden . . . both as casualties and in reduced access to health services.”<sup>62</sup> In one instance, the bodies of decomposed babies were discovered at a hospital in northern Gaza after the IOF forcibly evacuated everyone, including healthcare workers, in November 2023.<sup>63</sup> The IOF, when ordering the forced evacuation under gunfire, reassured a hospital official that an ambulance would come to evacuate the babies that doctors were unable to take with them. The ambulance never came. Footage shows the babies’ bodies in a state of decay, some still hooked up to machines, with milk bottles and spare diapers still next to them on the sheets.<sup>64</sup>



A three-week old prematurely born baby, who later died of pneumonia. His mother hadn't named him for fear of losing him. 29 November 2024. [UNICEF/X]

- 61 *Ibid*; *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)*, *Application Instituting Proceedings* (29 December 2023), <<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20231228-app-01-00-en.pdf>>, para. 97.
- 62 WHO, *Women and newborns bearing the brunt of the conflict in Gaza, UN agencies warn*, (3 November 2023), <<https://www.who.int/news/item/03-11-2023-women-and-newborns-bearing-the-brunt-of-the-conflict-in-gaza-un-agencies-warn>>; MSF, *Living conditions are threatening the lives of pregnant women in Gaza* (18 July 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/living-conditions-are-threatening-lives-pregnant-women-gaza>>.
- 63 Allegra Goodwin, Jomana Karadsheh, Abeer Salman, Florence Davey-Attlee, and Mihir Melwani, *Al-Nasr hospital: Infants found dead and decomposing in evacuated Gaza ICU*, CNN (8 December 2023), <<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/12/08/middleeast/babies-al-nasr-gaza-hospital-what-we-know-intl/index.html>>.
- 64 *Ibid*.



Hospitals have been forced to close their maternity wards and other departments as they came under direct attack, faced shortages in critical medical supplies, and became overwhelmed with mass casualty patients.<sup>65</sup> For example, Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah announced on 8 October 2023 the closure of the women and maternity department and its transfer to Al-Awda Hospital in order to accommodate as many of the wounded as possible.<sup>66</sup> Al-Awda Hospital is the main maternity provider in the Gaza Strip, and soon became the only provider of maternity services in northern Gaza.<sup>67</sup> The hospital faced severe strain to maintain its maternity services as it came under direct attack.<sup>68</sup> On 9 December 2023, as Israeli forces besieged Al-Awda Hospital in the north, Israeli snipers killed two healthcare workers and killed and wounded several women, at least one of whom was pregnant, upon their arrival to the hospital to give birth.<sup>69</sup> According to the MOH, many pregnant women and their babies were at risk of dying because they could not reach the besieged hospital.<sup>70</sup> On 11 December, Israeli forces bombed the maternity ward at the besieged Kamal Adwan Hospital, killing two mothers and injuring several others.<sup>71</sup> In October 2024, the UNFPA warned that over 9,000 pregnant women are being forced to move yet again amid evacuation orders in northern Gaza, further risking their lives and the lives of their babies.<sup>72</sup>

65 Bilal Irfan, Abdallah Abu Shammala, and Khaled Saleh, "Will there be a future for newborns in Gaza?", 404 *The Lancet* (2 November 2024) 1725-1726, <<https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S0140-6736%2824%2902249-9>>.

66 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #100* (23 January 2024), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-100>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/3>>.

67 UNFPA, *After a month of siege, bombardments and a health system obliterated, pregnant women in Gaza are caught in a catastrophe*, (9 November 2023), <<https://www.unfpa.org/news/after-month-siege-bombardments-and-health-system-obliterated-pregnant-women-gaza-are-caught>>.

68 Institute for Palestine Studies, Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Awda Hospital <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/77>>; Al-Awda Health and Community Association, Facebook, (26 December 2023), <<https://www.facebook.com/awdaps/posts/pfbid034jh48dcCFqbgEy7XD9hVxoD3VFJS1HrPi7SWTgGBQPcGratPUWxmbLNhZ4h1extBl>>.

69 Palestinian Ministry of Health - Gaza, Telegram (9 December 2023), <<https://t.me/MOHMediaGaza/4545>>; Mike Ludwig, "IDF Shot at Pregnant Civilian Outside Gaza Hospital Under Siege, Staffer Says", *Truthout* (12 December 2023), <<https://truthout.org/articles/idf-shot-at-pregnant-civilian-outside-gaza-hospital-under-siege-staffer-says/>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #66* (11 December 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-66>>.

70 Palestinian Ministry of Health - Gaza, Telegram (9 December 2023), <<https://t.me/MOHMediaGaza/4545>>.

71 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #66* (11 December 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-66>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Kamal Adwan Hospital, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/79>>.

72 @UNFPA, X (11 Oct. 2024), <<https://x.com/UNFPA/status/1844839922881982900>>.




The widespread reproductive violence in the Gaza Strip is not just a consequence of the systematic destruction of Gaza's healthcare system, but a deliberate outcome of the policy.<sup>73</sup> Approximately 70 percent of Palestinians killed by Israel were women and children.<sup>74</sup> Israel's measures have caused a surge in maternal and newborn deaths and resulted in the destruction of "generations of Palestinian children."<sup>75</sup> As such, Israel is demonstrating the genocidal intent to achieve the imposition of measures intended to prevent Palestinian births in the Gaza Strip.



A mother, who recently gave birth to twins and is battling breast cancer, faces overwhelming hardship in Khan Yunis in southern Gaza during Israel's genocidal assault. She gave birth after being displaced from northern Gaza a month prior. 2 December 2024. [Doaa Albaz]

- 73 Bilal Irfan, Abdallah Abu Shammala, and Khaled Saleh, "Will there be a future for newborns in Gaza?," 404 *The Lancet* (2 November 2024) 1725-1726, <<https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S0140-6736%2824%2902249-9>>.
- 74 The UN Human Rights Office has confirmed that of those killed, "it has so far found close to 70 per cent to be children and women, indicating a systematic violation of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, including distinction and proportionality," OHCHR, *There must be "due reckoning" for horrific violations, possible atrocity crimes in Gaza – UN Human Rights Chief* (8 November 2024), <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/11/there-must-be-due-reckoning-horrific-violations-possible-atrocity-crimes>>.
- 75 UN HRC, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel*, A/79/232 (11 September 2024), para. 96; See also UN Palestine, *The invasion of Rafah would spell catastrophe for pregnant women, new mothers and newborns – Statement from UNFPA Director* (5 May 2024), <<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/statement-unfpa-rafah-5may24/>>.



## ISRAEL IS VIOLATING THE PROTECTED STATUS OF HOSPITALS AND HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

### A. Legal Framework

International humanitarian law strictly prohibits attacks against a zone established to shelter the wounded, the sick, and civilians from the effects of hostilities.<sup>76</sup> Medical units exclusively assigned to medical purposes, including establishments such as hospitals and clinics, as well as mobile units such as ambulances, must be respected and protected at all times and under all circumstances.<sup>77</sup> The protection afforded to these medical establishments and units will not cease unless they are used in a manner outside their humanitarian duties to engage in “acts harmful to the enemy.”<sup>78</sup> In such instances, the protected status of a civilian hospital may only cease once due warning has been given with a reasonable time limit, and once such

76 ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 35: Hospital and Safety Zones and Neutralized Zones*, <[https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule35#Fn\\_A3ED779F\\_00003](https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule35#Fn_A3ED779F_00003)>; Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War [hereinafter Geneva Convention IV], Art. 14 *Hospital and safety zones and localities*.

77 ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 28: Medical Units and Rule 29: Medical Transports and Rule 30: Persons and Objects Displaying the Distinctive Emblem*; Fourth Geneva Convention, Art. 18, *Wounded and Sick III. Protection of hospitals*; First Geneva Convention, Art. 19, *Protection of medical units and establishments*, <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gci-1949/article-19?activeTab=undefined>>; First Geneva Convention, Art. 35, *Protection of medical transports*.

78 ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 28: Medical Units*, <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule28>>; Fourth Geneva Convention, Art. 19, *Wounded and Sick IV. Discontinuance of protection of hospitals*; First Geneva Convention, Art. 21, *Discontinuance of protection of medical establishments and units*, <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gci-1949/article-21?activeTab=undefined>>.

warning has remained unheeded.<sup>79</sup> The Geneva Conventions do not define what activities constitute “acts harmful to the enemy” that would strip a hospital of its protected status, but it does specify that “sick or wounded members of the armed forces nursed in these hospitals, or the presence of small arms and ammunition taken from such combatants and not yet handed to the proper service,” shall not be considered acts harmful to the enemy and thus do not suffice to strip the hospital of its protected status.<sup>80</sup> Furthermore, the presence of medical personnel armed for defensive purposes does not deprive a medical unit or establishment of its protections.<sup>81</sup>

Even if a civilian hospital loses its protected status for engaging in “acts harmful to the enemy” and warnings to the hospital remain unheeded, the international humanitarian law principles of necessity, proportionality, and distinction still apply. As such, the military advantage that may be gained from attacking medical establishments or units that have lost their protected status must be carefully weighed against the humanitarian consequences likely to result from the damage or destruction of those facilities, including the loss of human life and effects on delivery of healthcare in the short and long-term.<sup>82</sup>

Attacking civilians, the sick and wounded, or persons *hors de combat* is also strictly prohibited.<sup>83</sup> Persons *hors de combat* is anyone who: (1) is in the power of an adverse party; (2) is defenseless because of unconsciousness, shipwreck, wounds, or sickness; or (3) clearly expresses an intention to surrender, provided they abstain from any hostile act and do not attempt to escape.<sup>84</sup>

79 ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 28: Medical Units*, <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule28>>; Fourth Geneva Convention, Art. 19, *Wounded and Sick IV. Discontinuance of protection of hospitals*; First Geneva Convention, Art. 21, *Discontinuance of protection of medical establishments and units*, <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gci-1949/article-21?activeTab=undefined>>.

80 Fourth Geneva Convention, Art. 19, *Wounded and Sick IV. Discontinuance of protection of hospitals*.

81 ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 28: Medical Units*, <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule28>>; First Geneva Convention, Art. 22, *Conditions not depriving medical units and establishments of protection*, <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gci-1949/article-22?activeTab=undefined>>.

82 ICRC, *The protection of hospitals during armed conflict: What the law says*, (2 November 2023), <<https://www.icrc.org/en/document/protection-hospitals-during-armed-conflicts-what-law-says>>.

83 ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 47: Attacks against Persons Hors de Combat*, <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule47>>.

84 *Ibid.*

## B. Israel is weaponizing a deliberate misuse of IHL to falsely justify its attacks on Gaza's healthcare system

Israel is deliberately attacking Gaza's healthcare infrastructure while abusing international humanitarian law to try to justify their prohibited acts. Although international humanitarian law strictly prohibits the targeting of hospitals and zones established to shelter the sick, wounded, and other civilians, Israel has attempted to justify their targeting of Gaza's healthcare infrastructure by claiming that " Hamas has turned hospitals into command and control centers and hideouts for Hamas terrorists and commanders," thereby stripping these areas of their protected status and turning them into military targets.<sup>85</sup>

Nevertheless, Israel has never presented sufficient evidence to justify attacking Gaza's hospitals and healthcare infrastructure. For example, in October 2023, the official Israeli military account on the social media platform X published an animated video created by the Israeli military as 'evidence' that there is an extensive tunnel network and command center used by militants below Al-Shifa Hospital.<sup>86</sup> The Israeli military's announcement and publication of an animated video without verifiable evidence as to any military activity in Al-Shifa Hospital was an attempt to obscure the status of the hospital as a protected zone. As a result, Al-Shifa came under intense bombardment, invasion, and eventually, total destruction.<sup>87</sup>

The Israeli military carried out the same pattern of destruction on other hospitals throughout Gaza while deliberately misusing international humanitarian law to

85 "Israeli military says Hamas hiding tunnels, operation centres in Gaza hospital", *Reuters* (27 October 2023), <<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-military-says-hamas-hiding-tunnels-operations-centres-gaza-hospital-2023-10-27/>>; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 28: Medical Units*, <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule28>>; Fourth Geneva Convention, Art. 19, *Wounded and Sick IV. Discontinuance of protection of hospitals*; First Geneva Convention, Art. 21, *Discontinuance of protection of medical establishments and units*, <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gci-1949/article-21?activeTab=undefined>>.

86 @IDF, X (27 Oct. 2023), <<https://x.com/IDF/status/1718010359397634252?s=20>>; Louisa Loveluck, Evan Hill, Jonathan Baran, Jarrett Ley, and Ellen Nakashima, "Investigating the assault on al-Shifa, Gaza's largest hospital", *The Washington Post* (21 December 2023), <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/12/21/al-shifa-hospital-gaza-hamas-israel/>>.

87 WHO, *Six months of war leave Al-Shifa hospital in ruins, WHO mission reports* (6 April 2024), <<https://www.who.int/news/item/06-04-2024-six-months-of-war-leave-al-shifa-hospital-in-ruins--who-mission-reports>>.

justify their actions.<sup>88</sup> For example, even if Israel could prove that a hospital in Gaza was used for “acts harmful to the enemy,” the protected status of a civilian hospital may only cease once due warning has been given with a reasonable time limit, and once such warning has remained unheeded.<sup>89</sup> In the case of Al-Shifa Hospital, the Israeli military targeted, besieged, and raided the hospital complex before issuing a warning to wounded and sick patients, medical professionals, and thousands of civilians sheltering inside to “evacuate immediately,” leaving neither reasonable time nor method for those inside to heed the warning, as thousands remained trapped within the besieged hospital complex with dwindling supplies of food and water.<sup>90</sup>

Furthermore, even assuming for arguments sake that Israel had presented sufficient evidence to justify a loss of Al-Shifa’s protected status, the military nonetheless violated the principles of distinction, necessity, and proportionality. The IOF’s siege and invasion of Al-Shifa left the hospital in ruins and completely non-functional. At least 21 patients died during the siege due to denial of access to medical care by Israeli forces, who utilized the grounds of the medical complex to detain and interrogate healthcare workers, some of whom remain forcibly

88 Israel frequently claims that Hamas and other armed groups use Palestinian civilians as human shields. By utilizing the human shields argument, Israel purports that ordinary civilian infrastructure is actually a legitimate military target because it is a violation of international humanitarian law to deliberately place civilians in the presence of military objectives to render them immune from attack. For example, the Israeli military claimed that Hamas was using Palestinian civilians as human shields in Al-Shifa Hospital, and the Israeli military’s “operation” in the hospital resulted in the killing or arrest of hundreds of “terrorists.” See Sam Halpern, “Hamas is firing mortars at Shifa”, *The Jerusalem Post* (25 March 2024), <<https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-793576>>; Orly Goldschmidt (Spokesperson, Embassy of Israel), “Israel never targets innocents intentionally”, *The Guardian* (4 July 2024), <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jul/04/israel-never-targets-innocents-intentionally>>; See also ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 97: Human Shields*, <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule97>>.

89 ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 28: Medical Units*, <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule28>>; Fourth Geneva Convention, Art. 19, *Wounded and Sick IV. Discontinuance of protection of hospitals*; First Geneva Convention, Art. 21, *Discontinuance of protection of medical establishments and units*, <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gci-1949/article-21?activeTab=undefined>>.

90 Mary Kekatos, “Israeli military warns Gazans to evacuate Al-Shifa Hospital as raid continues,” *ABC News* (21 March 2024), <<https://abcnews.go.com/International/israeli-military-warns-gazans-evacuate-al-shifa-hospital/story?id=108342038>>; “Battle rages at Gaza hospital as UN reports ‘catastrophic’ hunger”, *France24* (18 March 2024), <<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20240318-israeli-army-launches-operation-at-gaza-s-al-shifa-hospital>>; Aya Batrawy, “Survivors recount horrors of Israeli siege on Gaza’s Al-Shifa hospital”, *NPR* (2 April 2024), <<https://www.npr.org/2024/04/02/1242328514/survivors-recount-horrors-of-israeli-siege-on-gazas-al-shifa-hospital>>.



disappeared or in captivity today.<sup>91</sup> The IOF killed hundreds of civilians in the vicinity of Al-Shifa Hospital, including at least two doctors.<sup>92</sup> The IOF reduced Gaza's largest medical complex to "an empty shell" with buildings and equipment turned to ashes.<sup>93</sup> Bodies of dead Palestinians were desecrated in numerous shallow graves with exposed limbs sticking out of the ground, decomposing and exposed to the heat.<sup>94</sup>

Thus, Israel is deliberately misusing international humanitarian law to try to justify their illegal acts against hospitals and healthcare infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, rendering hospitals incapable of providing life-saving care to the wounded as Israel kills tens of thousands of civilians and wounds hundreds of thousands more. At the time of writing, Israel has killed more than 45,541 Palestinians in Gaza and wounded 108,338 more, with some estimates demonstrating that the number killed is likely much higher at 186,000 killed, or 7.9 percent of Gaza's population.<sup>95</sup>

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- 91 MAP, *The destruction of Shifa Hospital is latest evidence of Israel's systematic dismantling of Gaza's health system* (2 April 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/destruction-shifa-hospital-latest-evidence-israels-systematic-dismantling-gazas-health-system>>; UN News, *Rights expert condemns death of Palestinian doctor in Israeli custody, urges independent inquiry* (16 May 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/05/1149856>>; UN Palestine, *Statement on the killing and arbitrary detention of health workers in Gaza - OHCHR*, (25 June 2024), <<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/statement-gaza-ohchr-25jun24/>>; OHCHR, *UN expert shocked by death of another Palestinian doctor in Israeli detention* (24 September 2024), <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/09/un-expert-shocked-death-another-palestinian-doctor-israeli-detention>>.
- 92 MAP, *The destruction of Shifa Hospital is latest evidence of Israel's systematic dismantling of Gaza's health system* (2 April 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/destruction-shifa-hospital-latest-evidence-israels-systematic-dismantling-gazas-health-system>>.
- 93 WHO, *Six months of war leave Al-Shifa hospital in ruins, WHO mission reports* (6 April 2024), <<https://www.who.int/news/item/06-04-2024-six-months-of-war-leave-al-shifa-hospital-in-ruins--who-mission-reports#:~:text=Like%20the%20majority%20of%20the,unusable%20or%20reduced%20to%20ashes>>.
- 94 *Ibid*, UN News, *Gaza: 'Systematic dismantling of healthcare must end' says WHO* (6 April 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1148316>>.
- 95 Rasha Khatib, Martin McKee, and Salim Yusuf, "Counting the dead in Gaza: difficult but essential", 404 *The Lancet* (20 July 2024), p. 237, [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01169-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01169-3/fulltext), "In recent conflicts, such indirect deaths range from three to 15 times the number of direct deaths. Applying a conservative estimate of four indirect deaths per one direct death<sup>9</sup> to the 37 396 deaths reported, it is not implausible to estimate that up to 186 000 or even more deaths could be attributable to the current conflict in Gaza. Using the 2022 Gaza Strip population estimate of 2 375 259, this would translate to 7.9% of the total population in the Gaza Strip. A report from Feb 7, 2024, at the time when the direct death toll was 28,000, estimated that without a ceasefire there would be between 58,260 deaths (without an epidemic or escalation) and 85,750 deaths (if both occurred) by Aug 6, 2024".



## IV. SUMMARY OF FACTS

### A. Background: Gaza's hospitals historically a civilian refuge from war

During Israel's six previous major military offensives on the Gaza Strip over the last 17 years, Palestinian civilians in Gaza have routinely sought refuge in hospitals, schools, and UN facilities in search of safety from belligerent Israeli airstrikes.<sup>96</sup> Amid years of siege and an Israeli-issued permit system that prohibits Palestinians' freedom of movement, Palestinians are effectively caged into the Gaza Strip, a piece of land only 360 square kilometers in area.<sup>97</sup> Thus, hospitals in particular not only serve as a last resort for the wounded, sick, and civilians seeking shelter, but are a space from which Gaza's journalists report and civil defense teams organize rescue efforts. Gaza's hospitals serve all of these functions as the last remaining civilian institutions that are meant to offer protection from warfare.

96 Since the beginning of the Israeli-imposed siege and blockade on the Gaza Strip in 2007 until start of the genocide in 2023, Israel has subjected Gaza to at least six major military offensives: in 2008-2009 (Israeli-labelled "Operation Cast Lead"), in 2012 (Israeli-labelled "Operation Pillar of Defense"), in 2014 (Israeli-labelled "Operation Protective Edge"), in 2018-2019 (hundreds of peacefully demonstrating civilians killed by IOF during Great March of Return protests), in 2021 (part of the Unity Intifada), and in 2022 (Israeli-labelled "Operation Breaking Dawn").

97 HRW, *Gaza: Israel's 'Open-Air Prison' at 15*, (14 June 2022), <<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/06/14/gaza-israels-open-air-prison-15>>.



Palestinians inspect damages of a destroyed ambulance in Shuja'iyyeh neighborhood in the east of Gaza City, during a ceasefire. 26 July 2014. [Anne Paq]

However, Israel has exhibited a sustained practice of targeting Palestinian healthcare facilities with increasing impunity over the years, culminating in a systematic annihilation of the healthcare system in the Gaza Strip as seen since October 2023.<sup>98</sup> For example, in 2014, Israel directly targeted health facilities and damaged 17 out of 32 total hospitals in the Gaza Strip during its 50-day military offensive that amounted to collective punishment of the Palestinian population.<sup>99</sup>

98 Al-Haq, *Al-Haq Condemns Israel's Targeting of Health Facilities and Workers in the Gaza Strip*, (1 June 2021), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/18465.html>>; Al-Haq, *Operation Cast Lead and the Distortion of International Law*, (Apr. 2009), p. 1, <[https://www.alhaq.org/cached\\_uploads/download/alhaq\\_files/publications/Operation.Cast.Lead.pdf](https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/alhaq_files/publications/Operation.Cast.Lead.pdf)> page 1 (discussing destruction of civilian infrastructure including hospitals during "Operation Cast Lead" in 2008-2009); Human Rights Watch, *Gaza: Airstrike Deaths Raise Concerns on Ground Offensive*, (22 July 2014), <<https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/07/22/gaza-airstrike-deaths-raise-concerns-ground-offensive>>; Press Release, *Evacuation orders and bombing around Gaza's hospitals leaves people with few healthcare options*, MSF (12 Jan. 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/evacuation-orders-and-bombing-around-gaza-hospitals-leaves-people-few-healthcare-options-enar>>; UN HRC, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel*, 27 May 2024, A/HRC/56/26 (issued on 12 June 2024) para 71, <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g24/086/64/pdf/g2408664.pdf>

99 Al-Haq, *Al-Haq Condemns Israel's Targeting of Health Facilities and Workers in the Gaza Strip* (1 June 2021), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/18465.html>>; Amnesty International, *Gaza: Operation Protective Edge*, (9 July 2015), <<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/gaza-operation-protective-edge>>.



In 2021, as Israel was depriving the Palestinian population from access to COVID-19 vaccinations that it was legally obligated to provide the population under its occupation, Israel waged yet another military offensive against the Palestinian people, killing doctors and destroying health facilities and the only COVID-19 testing center, further crippling Gaza's health system that was already on the verge of collapse amid a pandemic and years of blockade.<sup>100</sup>

## B. Timeline

Gaza's healthcare infrastructure has been under direct and systematic attack since 7 October 2023. The World Health Organization (WHO) has recorded 591 attacks on Gaza's medical infrastructure between 7 October 2023 and 4 December 2024.<sup>101</sup> In 14 months, from 7 October 2023 to 24 December 2024, Israel killed at least 1,057 healthcare workers in Gaza.<sup>102</sup>

Through a pattern of denying basic medical supplies from entering the Gaza

100 *Ibid.*; Al-Haq, *Al-Haq Warns the Targeted Destruction of Critical Civilian Road Infrastructure to Al-Shifa Hospital May Constitute War Crimes* (17 May 2021), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/18349.html>>; Rome Statute, Art. 8(2)(b)(ii), 8(2)(b)(xxiv); Fourth Geneva Convention, Art. 55, *Food and medical supplies for the population*, Art. 56 *Hygiene and public health*; Hague Convention respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land (18 October 1907), Art. 43 [hereinafter "Hague Convention"]; International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (16 December 1966), Art. 12 [hereinafter "ICESCR"].

101 WHO, *Impact of attacks on health care in the Gaza Strip* (28 November 2024), <[https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Impact\\_on\\_Health\\_Attacks\\_GS\\_update\\_for\\_28Nov.pdf?ua=1](https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Impact_on_Health_Attacks_GS_update_for_28Nov.pdf?ua=1)>; WHO, *oPt Emergency Situation Update* (4 December 2024), <[https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep\\_52.pdf?ua=1](https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep_52.pdf?ua=1)>.

102 UN OCHA, *Reported Impact Snapshot, Gaza Strip* (24 December 2024), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/reported-impact-snapshot-gaza-strip-24-december-2024-1500>>; Healthcare Workers Watch, *The Killing, Detention, and Torture of Healthcare Workers in Gaza* (7 October 2024), p.5, <[https://healthcareworkerswatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/HWW-report\\_The-killing-detention-and-torture-of-HCWs-in-Gaza\\_October-72024\\_Final.pdf](https://healthcareworkerswatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/HWW-report_The-killing-detention-and-torture-of-HCWs-in-Gaza_October-72024_Final.pdf)> ("HWW has confirmed the killing of a total of 587 healthcare workers in Gaza since October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and are in the process of verifying the killing of a further 420 healthcare workers"); Gaza Ministry of Health released a report on the 17 September 2024 counting 1,151 healthcare workers killed (at least 165 killed were doctors, 260 were nurses, 300 were management and support personnel, 184 health associate professionals, 76 pharmacists and 12 other health workers, (see Huthifa Fayyad, "Nearly 1,000 Palestinian health workers killed by Israeli forces in Gaza named", *Middle East Eye* (17 September 2024), <<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/nearly-1000-palestinian-health-workers-killed-israeli-forces-gaza-named>>; Healthcare Workers Watch, *The Killing, Detention and Torture of Healthcare workers in Gaza* (7 October 2024), <<https://healthcareworkerswatch.org/publications/reports/the-killing-detention-and-torture-of-healthcare-workers-in-gaza/>>.

Strip,<sup>103</sup> attacks on health care staff, arbitrary arrests and detentions of medical staff,<sup>104</sup> the killing of medical staff,<sup>105</sup> attacks on ambulances,<sup>106</sup> intimidation, direct targeting, siege, and invasion of hospitals, Israel is preventing Palestinians from accessing critical medical care, basic necessities to sustain life, and violating the protected status of hospitals as critical infrastructure and civilian safe zones. Israel's focus on Gaza's hospitals shifted geographically over time:

- **October 2023 to December 2023: Israel primarily targeted hospitals in North Gaza;**
- **December 2023 to January 2024: Israel targeted hospitals in the Middle Area of Gaza;**
- **January 2024 to March 2024: Israel targeted hospitals in South Gaza;**
- **March 2024 to September 2024: Israel doubled back to inflict further damage on hospitals throughout the Gaza Strip;**
- **October 2024 to December 2024: Israel once more primarily targeted attacks on hospitals in North Gaza.<sup>107</sup>**

The systematic destruction of the healthcare system in the Gaza Strip has created conditions calculated to bring about the destruction of Palestinian life, and as such, is an integral component of Israel's genocidal campaign on the Palestinian population in Gaza.

103 Norwegian Refugee Council, *Israel's siege now blocks 83% of food aid reaching Gaza, new data reveals*, (16 September 2024), <<https://www.nrc.no/news/2024/september/israels-siege-now-blocks-83-of-food-aid-reaching-gaza-new-data-reveals/>>; Brett Murphy, *Blinked Rejected Officials Who Concluded Israel Deliberately Blocked Humanitarian Aid to Gaza*, ProPublica (24 September 2024), <<https://www.propublica.org/article/gaza-palestine-israel-blocked-humanitarian-aid-blinken>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #231* (22 October 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-231-gaza-strip>>.

104 UN Palestine, *Statement on the killing and arbitrary detention of health workers in Gaza - OHCHR*, (25 June 2024), <<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/statement-gaza-ohchr-25jun24/>>.

105 OHCHR, UN expert horrified by death of Gazan orthopedic surgeon in Israeli detention, (16 May 2024), <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/05/un-expert-horrified-death-gazan-orthopedic-surgeon-israeli-detention#:~:text=standard%20of%20health-,Dr>>>; Healthcare Workers Watch, *The Killing, Detention and Torture of Healthcare workers in Gaza*, (7 Oct. 2024), <<https://healthcareworkerswatch.org/publications/reports/the-killing-detention-and-torture-of-healthcare-workers-in-gaza/>>; UN Palestine, *Statement on the killing and arbitrary detention of health workers in Gaza - OHCHR* (25 June 2024), <<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/statement-gaza-ohchr-25jun24/>>.

106 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #65* (10 December 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-65>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #193* (19 July 2024), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-193-gaza-strip>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #231* (22 October 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-231-gaza-strip>>.

107 UN HRC, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, A/79/232* (11 September 2024), para. 6.



## October 2023 - December 2023 (the north)

The IOF began its systematic campaign of destruction against Gaza's hospitals in the north, forcing both the Beit Hanoun Hospital and Al-Durrah Hospital out of service as early as 14 October 2023.<sup>108</sup> As thousands of displaced civilians in the north took refuge in hospitals, primarily the Al-Shifa, Indonesian, Kamal Adwan, Al-Rantisi, and Al-Quds hospitals, they came under direct attack, siege, and invasion.<sup>109</sup> In November 2023, children sheltering in Al-Shifa Hospital pleaded with the world for protection as children comprised nearly half of the death toll at the time.<sup>110</sup> By the end of November 2023, three hospitals — Al-Shifa, Indonesian, and Al-Rantisi — were besieged, invaded, and forced out of service by the IOF.<sup>111</sup> The closure of these hospitals, and of Al-Shifa in particular, which was the largest hospital and sheltered approximately 50,000 displaced civilians, had serious ramifications for the already-strained healthcare system in the Gaza Strip, further overwhelming the remaining hospitals operating under bombardment and siege.<sup>112</sup> On 18 December 2023, Al-Ahli Hospital, the last partially functioning hospital in the north of Gaza, was occupied by the Israeli military and forced out of service.<sup>113</sup> By 21 December, the World Health Organization reported that only nine out of 36 total hospitals in the Gaza Strip were partially functional, all of which were located in the south.<sup>114</sup> The four remaining hospitals in the north only offered minimal services to already admitted patients, lacked electricity and supplies, and were surrounded by Israeli forces.<sup>115</sup>

108 Forensic Architecture, *Gaza Hospitals*, <<https://gaza-hospitals.forensic-architecture.org/>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Beit Hanoun Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/80>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Muhammad Al-Durrah Children's Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/19>>.

109 Forensic Architecture, *Gaza Hospitals*, <<https://gaza-hospitals.forensic-architecture.org/>>.

110 Humanity and Inclusion, *Factsheet November 2023: The impact of explosive weapons in Gaza - The people behind the numbers* (9 November 2023), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/factsheet-november-2023-impact-explosive-weapons-gaza-people-behind-numbers>>.

111 Forensic Architecture, *Gaza Hospitals*, <<https://gaza-hospitals.forensic-architecture.org/>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Nasser Medical Complex*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/index.php/en/node/73>>.

112 UN HRC, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, A/79/232* (11 September 2024), paras. 14, 21; Al-Haq, *Gaza Hospitals Are Collapsing and Can Be Targeted Anytime: The International Community Must Intervene and Stop More Israeli Massacres of Palestinian Civilians*, (2 November 2023), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/22075.html>>.

113 Dr Richard Peeperkorn, *WHO Representative on the occupied Palestinian territory and Sean Casey, WHO Emergency Medical Teams coordinator, Opening remarks*, UN Palais briefing, (21 December 2023), <<https://www.emro.who.int/media/news/opening-remarks-un-palais-briefing-21-december-2023.html>>.

114 *Ibid.*

115 *Ibid.*



## December 2023 - January 2024 (the middle area)

At the end of December 2023, the Israeli military, having laid waste to the healthcare capacity of the hospitals in the north of Gaza, moved south to Gaza's middle area. From December 2023 to January 2024, Al-Aqsa Hospital, the only partially functional hospital and the sole remaining hospital in Gaza's middle area, faced intense attack by Israeli forces.<sup>116</sup> The World Health Organization described the situation at Al-Aqsa Hospital as a "bloodbath" as hundreds of injured patients flooded the already-strained hospital following airstrikes on the nearby Al-Bureij, Al-Nuseirat, and Al-Maghazi refugee camps.<sup>117</sup> Israeli forces issued evacuation orders for the area around the hospital despite the hundreds of civilians sheltering there, forcing MSF healthcare workers to leave patients behind.<sup>118</sup> Hospital capacity in the Gaza Strip dropped to 20 percent of what it was before 7 October 2023, and "almost all" hospital services stopped functioning "because the facilities themselves have been affected, because the staff have been forced to flee, because they've run out of power or they've run out of medical supplies, or staff have not been able to access them."<sup>119</sup> The unrelenting Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip severely strained and damaged the healthcare system to the point that patients were "waiting to die."<sup>120</sup>

116 Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/3>>; MSF, *Evacuation orders and bombing around Gaza hospitals leaves few healthcare options*, (12 Jan. 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/evacuation-orders-and-bombing-around-gaza-hospitals-leaves-few-healthcare-options>>; IRC, *On the ground with a doctor in Gaza* (9 February 2024), <<https://www.rescue.org/article/ground-doctor-gaza>>.

117 UN News, *Gaza health workers pushed to the limit amid airstrike 'carnage'*, (26 Dec. 2023), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1145077>>; MSF, *Hospitals in south Gaza overflow with hundreds of injured as Israeli forces step up bombardment*, (4 Dec. 2023), <<https://www.msf.org/hospitals-south-gaza-overflow-hundreds-injured>>.

118 MSF, *Evacuation orders and bombing around Gaza hospitals leaves few healthcare options* (12 January 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/evacuation-orders-and-bombing-around-gaza-hospitals-leaves-few-healthcare-options>>.

119 UN News, *Gaza health workers pushed to the limit amid airstrike 'carnage'* (26 December 2023), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1145077>>.

120 *Ibid*; See ICJ, *South Africa v. Israel, Application Instituting Proceedings*, (29 December 2023), para. 51 ("There are no functioning hospitals in the North of Gaza, in particular, such that injured persons are reduced to "waiting to die", unable to seek surgery or medical treatment beyond first aid, dying slow, agonising deaths from their injuries or from resultant infections.").



Bodies of Palestinians killed in the Christmas Day Massacre in Maghazi Refugee Camp arrive in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa Hospital. 25 December 2023. [@ShehabAgency/Telegram] (Verified by the Forensic Architecture Unit)



## January 2024 - March 2024 (the south)

The hospitals and healthcare infrastructure in Gaza's southern governorates came under sustained and direct Israeli attack at the start of 2024. On 2 January 2024, Israeli forces struck Al-Amal Hospital in Khan Yunis. Five people were killed, including a five-day-old infant.<sup>121</sup> Al-Amal Hospital, also the headquarters of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS), faced continuous Israeli shelling that "disrupted PRCS ambulances and paramedics, hindering vital medical aid and basic lifesaving emergency care."<sup>122</sup> By the end of January 2024, Al-Amal Hospital was encircled by the IOF, besieging healthcare workers, patients, and displaced civilians inside as the vicinity came under heavy bombardment.<sup>123</sup> On 9 February 2024, Israeli forces invaded Al-Amal Hospital for ten hours, destroying medical equipment and detaining, beating, and interrogating medical staff while preventing workers, patients, and civilians from drinking water or using the restroom.<sup>124</sup> The IOF continued to besiege and directly target the hospital for several weeks after, until finally rendering the hospital out of service on 26 March 2024 after ordering the remaining doctors and patients to evacuate.<sup>125</sup>

Nasser Hospital, the second largest hospital in the Gaza Strip, completely collapsed in February 2024. For months, Nasser Hospital was under severe

121 UN OCHA, *Gaza Al Amal Hospital*, video, (2 January 2024), <<https://media.un.org/unifeed/en/asset/d316/d3162351>> and <<https://www.unocha.org/media-centre/gaza-al-amal-hospital-2-january-2024>>; PRCS, *PRCS Expresses Deep Concern over the Repeated Targeting of Al-Amal Hospital Compound by Israeli Occupation Forces* (5 January 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/prcs-expresses-deep-concern-over-repeated-targeting-al-amal-hospital-compound-israeli-occupation-forces-and-calls-international-community-provide-urgent-protection-enar>>; IFRC, *Statement: IFRC condemns the attacks on Al-Amal Hospital and urges increased respect for the protective Red Crescent emblem* (5 January 2024), <<https://www.ifrc.org/article/statement-ifrc-condemns-attacks-al-amal-hospital-and-urges-increased-respect-protective-red>>.

122 *Ibid.*

123 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #99* (22 January 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-99>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Amal Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/76>>.

124 PRCS, Facebook (9 February 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid02VAMjWdr1PPR7wodbBKMWe6xtK5rXCB9pViYBZJ29D8Kc2CfQWiCpjiipRhEE7dLYI>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Amal Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/76>>.

125 PRCS, Facebook, (9 February 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid02VAMjWdr1PPR7wodbBKMWe6xtK5rXCB9pViYBZJ29D8Kc2CfQWiCpjiipRhEE7dLYI>>; PRCS, Facebook (25 March 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid0mhzGFTXiZZUxkB13oEkHfwhmk3KZ6pgVEqZDSwK5rUahz9BmSgMmY5yXx85syddal>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Amal Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/76>>.

strain. Patients from Al-Shifa, Indonesian, and other hospitals in the north had been transferred to Nasser Hospital, which sheltered around 18,000 civilians within the medical complex at the time of collapse.<sup>126</sup> The director of Nasser Hospital stated that patients were dying because the hospital did not have enough beds or doctors to accommodate the influx of the sick and injured.<sup>127</sup> Following a weeks-long Israeli siege on the hospital, Israeli forces shelled the hospital repeatedly from 14 to 15 February, killing at least one person and injuring several others, before invading the hospital.<sup>128</sup> The collapse of Nasser Hospital left Palestinians with no options for medical care.<sup>129</sup>



### March 2024 - September 2024 (repeated attacks across Gaza)

The period of March 2024 to September 2024 saw repeated Israeli attacks on the Palestinian healthcare system throughout the Gaza Strip. The Israeli military once again targeted hospitals that had managed to regain the capacity to provide limited medical care after being destroyed or forced out of service the first time.

The industrial scale at which Israel has systematically destroyed the healthcare system in Gaza culminated in the complete destruction of Al-Shifa Hospital. For two weeks in March 2024, Israeli forces once more besieged and invaded Al-Shifa, leaving behind a charred carcass of concrete where the largest and most important hospital in the Gaza Strip once stood.<sup>130</sup> The two-week siege and invasion of Al-Shifa Hospital compounded the Israeli-imposed conditions of starvation and famine that already existed throughout the Gaza Strip since the beginning

126 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #102* (25 January 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-102>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Amal Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/76>>; Nasser Medical Complex, Facebook (24 November 2023), <<https://tinyurl.com/429k87zp>>.

127 Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Amal Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/76>>; Nasser Medical Complex, Facebook (27 November 2023), <<https://tinyurl.com/ypadbt9z>>.

128 MSF, *How the Israeli army besieged and attacked Nasser hospital*, (3 April 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/gaza-how-israeli-army-besieged-and-attacked-nasser-hospital>>; MSF, *Services collapse at Nasser Hospital, leaving Palestinians with few options for care*, (26 January 2024), <<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/nasser-hospital-collapses-cutting-access-health-care-southern-gaza>>; @DrTedros, X (18 February 2024), <<https://x.com/DrTedros/status/1759104945993761060>>.

129 MSF, *Services collapse at Nasser Hospital, leaving Palestinians with few options for care*, (26 January 2024), <<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/nasser-hospital-collapses-cutting-access-health-care-southern-gaza>>; @DrTedros, X (18 Feb. 2024), <<https://x.com/DrTedros/status/1759104945993761060>>.

130 WHO, *Destruction of Gaza's Shifa Hospital* (5 April 2024), <<https://photos.emro.who.int/galleries/478>>.



of 2024.<sup>131</sup> Healthcare workers, patients, and civilians were trapped inside the hospital, forced to relocate between buildings at Israeli gunpoint, detained and interrogated, and deprived of food, medicines, and basic supplies during the month of Ramadan.<sup>132</sup> At least 21 patients were killed due to the lack of access to care as a result of Israeli soldiers preventing medical personnel from carrying out their duties during the two-week siege and invasion.<sup>133</sup> Healthcare workers were reportedly killed by the IOF during the invasion.<sup>134</sup> Dr. Ahmad Al-Maqadmeh and his mother, Dr. Yusra Al-Maqadmeh, were executed at the roundabout next to Carrefour Mall nearby Al-Shifa Hospital.<sup>135</sup> Israeli forces also killed hundreds of Palestinians sheltering in residences around Al-Shifa Hospital.<sup>136</sup> Numerous mass graves were left behind after the Israeli withdrawal, with evidence that some Palestinians were executed with their hands tied.<sup>137</sup>

On 7 April 2024, the Israeli military withdrew from its siege of Nasser Hospital, leaving behind several mass graves filled with the bodies of hundreds of

131 Press Release, *Over one hundred days into the war, Israel destroying Gaza's food system and weaponizing food, says UN Human Rights experts*, UN OHCHR (16 January 2024), <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/01/over-one-hundred-days-war-israel-destroying-gazas-food-system->> and (stating, "Gazans now make up 80 per cent of all people facing famine or catastrophic hunger worldwide, marking an unparalleled humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip amid Israel's continued bombardment and siege," and "Currently every single person in Gaza is hungry, a quarter of the population are starving and struggling to find food and drinkable water, and famine is imminent").

132 WHO, *Six months of war leave Al-Shifa hospital in ruins, WHO mission reports* (6 April 2024), <https://www.who.int/news/item/06-04-2024-six-months-of-war-leave-al-shifa-hospital-in-ruins--who-mission-reports> Photos following the Israeli withdrawal reportedly show messages scrawled on the hospital walls by those who were besieged within the complex, expressing pain, exhaustion, fear, and appealing that "God willing, we will get out", see @middleeasteye, Instagram (April 2024), <[https://www.instagram.com/p/C5Wi4l8LT67/?igsh=MW5yNXl0Y3A2Nm52dQ%3D&img\\_index=5](https://www.instagram.com/p/C5Wi4l8LT67/?igsh=MW5yNXl0Y3A2Nm52dQ%3D&img_index=5)>.

133 WHO, *Six months of war leave Al-Shifa hospital in ruins, WHO mission reports* (6 April 2024), <[https://www.who.int/news/item/06-04-2024-six-months-of-war-leave-al-shifa-hospital-in-ruins--who-mission-reports#:~:text=](https://www.who.int/news/item/06-04-2024-six-months-of-war-leave-al-shifa-hospital-in-ruins--who-mission-reports#:~:text=;)>; MAP, *The destruction of Shifa Hospital is latest evidence of Israel's systematic dismantling of Gaza's health system* (2 April 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/destruction-shifa-hospital-latest-evidence-israels-systematic-dismantling-gazas-health-system>>.

134 UN OHCHR, *Israel/Gaza: UN experts deplore attacks on Al-Shifa Hospital, urge States to stop the massacre* (3 April 2024), <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/04/israelgaza-un-experts-deplore-attacks-al-shifa-hospital-urge-states>>.

135 MAP, *The destruction of Shifa Hospital is latest evidence of Israel's systematic dismantling of Gaza's health system*, (2 April 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/destruction-shifa-hospital-latest-evidence-israels-systematic-dismantling-gazas-health-system>>.

136 *Ibid.*

137 UN Palestine, *Mass graves in Gaza show victims' hands were tied, says UN rights office* (24 April 2024), <<https://palestine.un.org/en/266849-mass-graves-gaza-show-victims%E2%80%99-hands-were-tied-says-un-rights-office>>; MAP, *A month after mass graves discovered at Gaza hospitals, international investigations and accountability are essential* (10 June 2024), <<https://www.map.org.uk/news/archive/post/1593-a-month-after-mass-graves-discovered-at-gaza-hospitals-international-investigations-and-accountability-are-essential>>.



Palestinians.<sup>138</sup> More than 392 bodies were recovered from mass graves on Nasser Hospital grounds, of which 42 were initially identified.<sup>139</sup> Among those killed were older people, women, and the wounded.<sup>140</sup> Some bodies recovered were found stripped of their clothes and with gunshot wounds to the head or neck.<sup>141</sup>

In May 2024, the Israeli invasion and large-scale annihilation of Rafah — where 1.2 million Palestinians, nearly 50 percent of the population in Gaza, were displaced — compounded an already dire health crisis, exacerbating the spread of disease, overcrowding, and lack of access to food, water, health, and sanitation.<sup>142</sup> The Israeli invasion of Rafah forced hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to flee for the overcrowded Al-Mawasi area, with poor access to food, water, medicine, hygiene products, electricity, and shelter.<sup>143</sup> Israeli forces shut the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, further cutting off life-saving humanitarian aid, supplies, and fuel required to run Gaza's remaining hospitals and desalination plants.<sup>144</sup>

The closure of Rafah crossing has effectively sealed Palestinians in the Gaza Strip into a killing cage, with no safe place to go within the Gaza Strip or ability to leave. Patients requiring urgent evacuation have been left to die. Between October 2023 and August 2024, Israel significantly reduced the number of permits for Palestinians to leave Gaza for medical treatment, only approving 6,075 of 15,600 (39 percent) applications for patients who required medical

138 UN News, *Mass graves in Gaza show victims' hands were tied, says UN rights office* (23 April 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1148876>>.

139 UN HRC, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel*, A/79/232, (11 September 2024), para. 22; UN News, *Mass graves in Gaza show victims' hands were tied, says UN rights office* (23 April 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1148876>>; MAP, *A month after mass graves discovered at Gaza hospitals, international investigations and accountability are essential* (10 June 2024), <<https://www.map.org.uk/news/archive/post/1593-a-month-after-mass-graves-discovered-at-gaza-hospitals-international-investigations-and-accountability-are-essential>>; UN News, *Mass graves in Gaza show victims' hands were tied, says UN rights office* (23 April 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1148876>>.

140 UN News, *Mass graves in Gaza show victims' hands were tied, says UN rights office*, (23 April 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1148876>>.

141 *Ibid*; *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel*, A/79/232 (11 September 2024), para. 22.

142 Oxfam, *Epidemic risk rising as Rafah invasion compounds lethal cocktail of over-crowding, sewage and hunger*, (13 May 2024), <<https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/epidemic-risk-rising-rafah-invasion-compounds-lethal-cocktail-over-crowding-sewage>>; WHO, *The incursion into Rafah will increase deaths and weaken an already collapsing health system* (3 May 2024), <<https://www.who.int/ar/news/item/24-10-1445-rafah-incursion-would-substantially-increase-mortality-and-morbidity-and-further-weaken-an-already-broken-health-system>>.

143 UN OHCHR, *Israel's Rafah invasion must stop now, say UN experts* (10 May 2024), <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/05/israels-rafah-invasion-must-stop-now-say-un-experts>>.

144 *Ibid*.



evacuation from the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing.<sup>145</sup> Only 54 percent of evacuation requests made by cancer patients from October 2023 to June 2024 were approved.<sup>146</sup> The increasingly dire situation for cancer patients has been exacerbated by the fact that the Turkish-Palestinian Friendship Hospital, the only oncology hospital in Gaza, has been repeatedly damaged in Israeli attacks and rendered out of service.<sup>147</sup> In July 2024, the IOF turned the hospital into a military base.<sup>148</sup> About 10,000 cancer patients are without treatment and dying from lack of care.<sup>149</sup> In July 2024, Israel delayed the evacuation of 150 children from Gaza in need of specialized medical treatment.<sup>150</sup>

In July 2024, the destruction of the healthcare system was so severe that the poliovirus was detected in Gaza for the first time in 25 years, with several children presenting symptoms of the disease.<sup>151</sup> Amid a worsening crisis with limited access to food, water, and other essentials, videos surfaced of Israeli soldiers bombing the drinking water reservoir in Rafah, one among many destroyed infrastructure assets critical to the survival of Palestinians.<sup>152</sup> On 25 August 2024, the IOF once again issued evacuation orders impacting Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah, forcing 650 patients to flee the hospital.<sup>153</sup>

145 UN OCHA, *Reported Impact Snapshot* (2 October 2024), <[https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/Gaza\\_Reported\\_Impact\\_Snapshot\\_02\\_October\\_2024.pdf](https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/Gaza_Reported_Impact_Snapshot_02_October_2024.pdf)>; UN HRC, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel*, A/79/232 (11 September 2024), para. 17.

146 *Ibid.*

147 Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Press Release No: 137 Regarding the Israeli Attacks Targeting the Turkish-Palestinian Friendship Hospital in Gaza*, (15 July 2024), <[https://www.mfa.gov.tr/no\\_-137\\_-israil-in-gazze-deki-turk-filistin-dostluk-hastanesi-ni-hedef-alan-saldirilari-hk.en.mfa](https://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-137_-israil-in-gazze-deki-turk-filistin-dostluk-hastanesi-ni-hedef-alan-saldirilari-hk.en.mfa)>; UN HRC, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel*, A/79/232 (11 September 2024), para. 24.

148 *Ibid.*

149 UN HRC, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel*, A/79/232 (11 September 2024), para. 24.

150 *Ibid.*, para. 17.

151 WHO, *oPt Emergency Situation Update, Issue 39* (5 August 2024), <<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/who-sitrep-39-05aug24/>>; WHO and UNICEF, *Variant Type 2 poliovirus in Gaza – Situation Report, Issue 1* (16 July - 5 August 2024), <[https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Polio\\_Sitrep\\_-\\_issue\\_1.pdf?ua=1](https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Polio_Sitrep_-_issue_1.pdf?ua=1)>; UNICEF, *Humanitarian pauses vital for critical polio vaccination campaign in the Gaza Strip* (16 August 2024), <<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/humanitarian-pauses-vital-critical-polio-vaccination-campaign-gaza-strip>>.

152 European Commission, *Statement by the High Representative on the destruction of critical civilian infrastructure and worsening humanitarian situation* (5 August 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/gaza-statement-high-representative-destruction-critical-civilian-infrastructure-and-worsening-humanitarian-situation>>; @ytirawi, X (26 July 2024), <<https://x.com/ytirawi/status/1816965332952555683>>; Oxfam, *Israel using water as weapon of war as Gaza supply plummets by 94%, creating deadly health catastrophe* (17 July 2024), <<https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/israel-using-water-weapon-war-gaza-supply-plummets-94-creating-deadly-health>> (stating that, on average, Israel has destroyed five water and sanitation facilities every three days in the Gaza Strip).

153 MSF, *With Al-Aqsa hospital under threat, MSF opens field hospital in central Gaza*, (28 August 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/al-aqsa-hospital-under-threat-msf-opens-field-hospital-central-gaza>>.



Palestinians queue for a meal that has been prepared by volunteers in Rafah, south Gaza. The entire population of 2.3 million people in Gaza is facing hunger and the risk of famine is increasing each day. 23 December 2023. [Mohammed Zaanoun]



## October 2024 - December 2024 (emptying the north)

The entire population of north Gaza is at risk of dying.<sup>154</sup> From 1 October 2024 till the time of writing in December 2024, Israeli forces have restricted the entry of aid, food, water, and fuel to the north of the Gaza Strip.<sup>155</sup> Many are facing starvation as the IOF continues to airstrike hospitals, schools-turned-shelters, and civilian homes.<sup>156</sup> Healthcare workers continue to be detained, journalists continue to be

154 UN News, 'Entire population of north Gaza at risk of dying,' warns UN's top humanitarian official, (26 October 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/10/1156171>>.

155 UNRWA, *Situation Report #145* (24 October 2024), <<https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-145-situation-gaza-strip-and-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem>>; UN OCHA, *Attacks on Hospitals in northern Gaza* (19 October 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/attacks-hospitals-northern-gaza>>; Oxfam, *Just twelve aid trucks of food and water into the North Gaza Governorate in 2.5 months* (22 December 2024), <<https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/just-twelve-aid-trucks-food-and-water-north-gaza-governorate-25-months>>.

156 UN OHCHR, Press release, *Türk says world must act as darkest moment of Gaza conflict unfolds* (25 October 2024), <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/10/turk-says-world-must-act-darkest-moment-gaza-conflict-unfolds>>.



targeted and killed, and civilians are being rounded up *en masse*, with reports of men and boys being separated and taken away by the truckload to undisclosed locations.<sup>157</sup> The Israeli Government's "policies and practices in northern Gaza risk emptying the area of all Palestinians."<sup>158</sup> Indeed, the IOF has declared that it is their intention to empty the northern Gaza Strip of Palestinians.<sup>159</sup>

The Israeli military has targeted Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza in particular since 6 October 2024.<sup>160</sup> Israeli forces surrounded the refugee camp before issuing evacuation orders on 7 October while striking the camp, preventing people from leaving the area safely and with no place left in Gaza for the residents to seek protection.<sup>161</sup> The residents in the camp (home to 119,540 registered Palestinian refugees) have been trapped with insufficient aid, food, or water.<sup>162</sup> Airstrikes intensified on Jabalia camp and on the nearby areas of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun. On 18 October, the last three minimally-functional hospitals in northern Gaza, the Kamal Adwan, Al-Awda, and Indonesian hospitals were directly hit.<sup>163</sup> The Indonesian Hospital was once again forced out of service, suffering a total power outage that resulted in at least two patients dying due to the lack of electricity and supplies.<sup>164</sup> The Indonesian Hospital suffered further damage after

157 *Ibid.*; UN News, 'Entire population of north Gaza at risk of dying,' warns UN's top humanitarian official (26 October 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/10/1156171>>.

158 UN OHCHR, Press release, *Türk says world must act as darkest moment of Gaa conflict unfolds* (25 October 2024), <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/10/turk-says-world-must-act-darkest-moment-gaza-conflict-unfolds>>.

159 In a now deleted tweet, Amichai Stein wrote "The IDF announces: The division of the northern Gaza Strip into two parts has been completed..." @AmichaiStein1, X, (6 November 2024) <<https://x.com/AmichaiStein1/status/1853853267442151899>> and archived on <https://archive.fo/0TJKW>

160 UNRWA, Situation Report #145, (24 Oct. 2024), <<https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-145-situation-gaza-strip-and-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem>>.

161 UN News, 'No end to hell' in northern Gaza, warns UN aid agency chief, (9 October 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/10/1155501>>; MSF, *Thousands trapped in Jabalia, northern Gaza, amid Israeli forces' attack* (11 October 2024), <<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/urgent-thousands-trapped-jabalia-northern-gaza-amid-israeli-forces-attack>>.

162 MSF, *Urgent: Last remaining hospitals in northern Gaza under siege as people are trapped* (20 October 2024), <<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/urgent-last-remaining-hospitals-northern-gaza-under-siege-people-are-trapped>>, ("Essential items, including food, are only entering in quantities that are largely insufficient for the population in the north of the Strip."); UNRWA, *Jabalia Camp*, <<https://www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/gaza-strip/jabalia-camp>>.

163 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #231* (22 October 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-231-gaza-strip>>.

164 *Ibid.*

the IOF set fire to a nearby school that spread to the hospital's generators.<sup>165</sup>

Kamal Adwan Hospital, hosting two-thirds of north Gaza's hospitalized patients, once again came under Israeli siege in October 2024.<sup>166</sup> Israeli forces invaded the hospital on 25 October 2024.<sup>167</sup> Humanitarian organizations lost contact with doctors and those sheltering within the hospital, unable to provide critical medical supplies to treat dying patients as ambulances were prevented from reaching the injured.<sup>168</sup> Every single male staff member of the hospital was detained and taken away by the Israeli forces on 26 October 2024. Only female staff, the hospital director, and one male doctor remained to care for the nearly 200 patients in need of medical intervention.<sup>169</sup> Images reveal civilians in north Gaza being rounded up *en masse* by Israeli forces, while men are

165 UN News, 'No end to hell' in northern Gaza, warns UN aid agency chief, (9 October 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/10/1155501>>; UN OCHA, *Attacks on Hospitals in northern Gaza* (19 October 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/attacks-hospitals-northern-gaza>>; Nidal Al-Mughrabi, *Hospitals under fire as Israeli forces deepen operations in northern Gaza*, (22 October 2024), <<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-forces-storm-shelters-detain-men-north-gaza-raid-deepens-2024-10-21/>>; HRW, *Gaza: Israel's Northern Offensive Endangering Hundreds of Thousands of Civilians*, (26 October 2024), <<https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/10/26/gaza-israels-northern-offensive-endangering-hundreds-thousands-civilians>>; @ytirawi, X (21 October 2024), <<https://x.com/ytirawi/status/1848387467247763853>>.

166 UN News, 'Entire population of north Gaza at risk of dying,' warns UN's top humanitarian official, (26 October 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/10/1156171>>; UN OCHA, *Attacks on Hospitals in northern Gaza* (19 October 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/attacks-hospitals-northern-gaza>>; MSF, *Last remaining hospitals in North Gaza under siege and population trapped* (19 October 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/last-remaining-hospitals-north-gaza-under-siege-and-population-trapped>>.

167 UN News, *WHO concerned following raid on North Gaza hospital* (25 October 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/10/1156126>>.

168 *Ibid.*; MSF, *MSF concerned following loss of contact with Dr. Obeid at Kamal Adwan hospital in north Gaza*, (26 Oct. 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/msf-concerned-following-loss-contact-dr-obeid-kamal-adwan-hospital-north-gaza>>; UN Web TV, *Gaza: Kamal Adwan Hospital desperately needs supplies amid constant stream of horrific trauma cases* (25 October 2024), <<https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1a/k1ag35afxz>>; MSF, *North Gaza, update from MSF staff in Kamal Adwan Hospital*, (23 Oct. 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/north-gaza-update-msf-staff-kamal-adwan-hospital>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #231* (22 October 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-231-gaza-strip>>; Nidal Al-Mughrabi, *Israeli army leaves north Gaza hospital, detains medics, says health ministry* (26 October 2024), <<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-army-leaves-north-gaza-hospital-detains-medics-says-health-ministry-2024-10-26/>>.

169 UN News, 'Entire population of north Gaza at risk of dying,' warns UN's top humanitarian official, (26 October 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/10/1156171>>; MSF, *MSF concerned following loss of contact with Dr. Obeid at Kamal Adwan hospital in north Gaza* (26 October 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/msf-concerned-following-loss-contact-dr-obeid-kamal-adwan-hospital-north-gaza>>.



being separated from women and children.<sup>170</sup> Attacks on Kamal Adwan hospital continued in late December. On 27 December, the IOF forced the evacuation of Kamal Adwan. Patients and hospital staff were stripped to their underwear and forced from the hospital, hands raised, at gunpoint.<sup>171</sup> The IOF attacked and set fire to Kamal Adwan hospital, putting the “last major health facility in North Gaza out of service”,<sup>172</sup> with the World Health Organization warning that “[t]he systematic dismantling of the health system in Gaza is a death sentence for tens of thousands of Palestinians in need of health care.”

The annihilation of hospitals in northern Gaza is part of the IOF's declared intention to empty the north of the Gaza Strip of Palestinians entirely. On 5 November 2024, the IOF announced that the “division of the northern Gaza Strip into two parts has been completed,” and “there is no intention to allow the residents of the northern Gaza Strip to return to their homes.”<sup>173</sup> Humanitarian aid will only “regularly” enter the southern Gaza Strip, “since there are no civilians left” in the north.<sup>174</sup>

170 UN News, *WHO concerned following raid on North Gaza hospital* (25 October 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/10/1156126>> (At a checkpoint close to Kamal Adwan, there were “thousands of women and children leaving the area, walking, limping, with their few belongings towards Salah al-Din and, actually, towards Gaza City,” he said. “We saw very few men or adolescent boys,” he continued. “We saw men being screened.”); HRW, *Gaza: Israel's Northern Offensive Endangering Hundreds of Thousands of Civilians* (26 October 2024), <<https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/10/26/gaza-israels-northern-offensive-endangering-hundreds-thousands-civilians>>; IDF Spokesperson, Avichay Adraee, posted a series of tweets about pushing civilians out of Jabalia, see @AvichayAdraee, X (23 October 2024), <<https://x.com/AvichayAdraee/status/1849059941648093577>> and @AvichayAdraee, X (19 October 2024), <<https://x.com/AvichayAdraee/status/1847644148355993827>>; Palestinians rounded up by the Israeli military and dressed in white jumpsuits, photo posted by Israeli journalist and media personality Amit Segal, @amitsegal, Telegram (22 October 2024), <<https://t.me/amitsegal/39113>>.

171 @Mondoweiss, X (27 December 2024), <[https://x.com/Mondoweiss/status/1872664950822342786?ref\\_src](https://x.com/Mondoweiss/status/1872664950822342786?ref_src)>.

172 World Health Organization (WHO) @WHO, X (27 December 2024), <<https://x.com/WHO/status/1t872744663196811482>>

173 [Translated from Hebrew] “A few thousand remain in the north of the Gaza Strip” Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation (5 November 2024), <<https://www.kan.org.il/content/kan-news/defense/820691/>>; Bethan McKernan, *IDF distances itself from ‘no return’ remarks about north Gaza evacuees*, *The Guardian* (7 November 2024), <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/nov/07/idf-israel-military-no-return-remarks-north-gaza>>; In a now deleted tweet, Amichai Stein wrote “The IDF announces: The division of the northern Gaza Strip into two parts has been completed...” @AmichaiStein1, X, (6 November 2024), <<https://x.com/AmichaiStein1/status/1853853267442151899>> and archived at <<https://archive.fo/OTJKW>>.

174 [Translated from Hebrew] “A few thousand remain in the north of the Gaza Strip” *Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation* (5 November 2024), <<https://www.kan.org.il/content/kan-news/defense/820691/>>.

## C. The killing, abduction, forced disappearance, and torture of healthcare workers

Throughout the last year, Israeli forces killed, abducted, forcibly disappeared, and tortured healthcare workers.<sup>175</sup> As previously stated, between 7 October 2023 and 24 December 2024, at least 1,057 healthcare workers were killed in Gaza.<sup>176</sup> From October 2023 to January 2024, the IOF killed healthcare workers at a rate of five healthcare workers per day.<sup>177</sup> In March 2024, after the Israeli siege of Al-Shifa Hospital, Doctors Ahmed Al-Maqadmeh and his mother, Yusra Al-Maqadmeh, were found executed near the hospital.<sup>178</sup> In a 12-day period in October 2024, Israeli forces killed at least 10 humanitarian aid workers and four healthcare workers in the Gaza Strip.<sup>179</sup> Between 7 October 2023 and June

175 UN Palestine, *Statement on the killing and arbitrary detention of health workers in Gaza* - OHCHR (25 June 2024), <<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/statement-gaza-ohchr-25jun24/>>.

176 UN OCHA, *Reported Impact Snapshot, Gaza Strip* (24 December 2024), <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/reported-impact-snapshot-gaza-strip-24-december-2024-1500>; Healthcare Workers Watch, *The Killing, Detention, and Torture of Healthcare Workers in Gaza* (7 October 2024), p.5, <[https://healthcareworkerswatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/HWW-report\\_The-killing-detention-and-torture-of-HCWs-in-Gaza\\_October-72024\\_Final.pdf](https://healthcareworkerswatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/HWW-report_The-killing-detention-and-torture-of-HCWs-in-Gaza_October-72024_Final.pdf)>; (“HWW has confirmed the killing of a total of 587 healthcare workers in Gaza since October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and are in the process of verifying the killing of a further 420 healthcare workers”); Gaza Ministry of Health released a report on the 17 September 2024 counting 1,151 healthcare workers killed (at least 165 killed were doctors, 260 were nurses, 300 were management and support personnel, 184 health associate professionals, 76 pharmacists and 12 other health workers, (see Huthifa Fayyad, “Nearly 1,000 Palestinian health workers killed by Israeli forces in Gaza named”, *Middle East Eye* (17 September 2024), <<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/nearly-1000-palestinian-health-workers-killed-israeli-forces-gaza-named>>; Healthcare Workers Watch, *The Killing, Detention and Torture of Healthcare workers in Gaza* (7 October 2024), <<https://healthcareworkerswatch.org/publications/reports/the-killing-detention-and-torture-of-healthcare-workers-in-gaza/>>.

177 MAP UK, ‘There are no more words’ - Six months of Israel’s total siege and bombardment of Gaza leaves tens of thousands dead, the healthcare system in ruins, and a starving population (8 April 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/there-are-no-more-words-six-months-israels-total-siege-and-bombardment-gaza-leaves-tens-thousands-dead-healthcare-system-ruins-and-starving-population#>>; UN OCHA, *Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel - reported impact | Day 180* (3 April 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-reported-impact-day-180?>>; @HCWWatch, X (13 March 2024), <<https://x.com/HCWWatch/status/1767666330252009517>>; @HCWWatch, X (3 Jan. 2024), <<https://x.com/HCWWatch/status/1742362647822217366?s=20>>; Diakonia, *2023-2024 Hostilities and Escalating Violence in the oPt | Account of Events*, (12 January 2024) (noting 326 health workers killed between 7 October 2023 and 7 January 2024), <<https://www.diakonia.se/ihl/news/2023-hostilities-in-gaza-and-israel-factual-account-of-events/>>.

178 MAP, *The destruction of Shifa Hospital is latest evidence of Israel’s systematic dismantling of Gaza’s health system* (2 April 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/destruction-shifa-hospital-latest-evidence-israels-systematic-dismantling-gazas-health-system>>.

179 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #231* (22 October 2024) <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-231-gaza-strip>>.



2024, 310 healthcare workers were detained by the Israeli forces.<sup>180</sup> Released healthcare workers have reported that they were subjected to torture, ill-treatment, deprivation of food and water, threats of rape and sexual violence, and degrading treatment while in Israeli detention.<sup>181</sup> In at least three cases, senior medical personnel were killed in Israeli custody.<sup>182</sup>

On 11 November 2023, Israeli forces detained Dr. Iyad Rantisi, the head of the obstetrics department at Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya, at a military checkpoint along with other doctors who were ordered to leave Kamal Adwan Hospital to the southern Gaza Strip.<sup>183</sup> He died six days later as a result of torture and ill treatment in Israel Prison Services-operated Shikma Prison, where he was reportedly interrogated by Shin Bet (the Israel Security Agency).<sup>184</sup> On 18 December 2023, Dr. Adnan Al-Bursh, the head of the orthopedic department at Al-Shifa Hospital, was detained and taken by Israeli forces along with other doctors at Al-Awda Hospital.<sup>185</sup> In December 2023, a released detainee reported that he saw Dr. Al-Bursh in Sde Teiman prison camp, where numerous instances of torture have been documented, with bruises on his body and complaining of chest pain.<sup>186</sup> Dr. Adnan Al-Bursh died in Ofer Prison in April 2024 with signs of

180 UN Palestine, *Statement on the killing and arbitrary detention of health workers in Gaza - OHCHR*, (25 June 2024), <<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/statement-gaza-ohchr-25jun24/>>.

181 *Ibid.* HRW, *Israel: Palestinian Healthcare Workers Tortured*, (26 August 2024), <<https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/08/26/israel-palestinian-healthcare-workers-tortured>>; Healthcare Workers Watch, *The Killing, Detention and Torture of Healthcare workers in Gaza*, (7 October 2024), <<https://healthcareworkerswatch.org/publications/reports/the-killing-detention-and-torture-of-healthcare-workers-in-gaza/>>.

182 UN HRC, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, A/79/232* (11 September 2024), para. 9.

183 *Ibid.*, para. 71; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Abduction of Dr. Iyad al-Rantisi*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/1945>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Iyad Mohammed al-Rantisi*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/index.php/en/node/1297>>.

184 UN HRC, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, A/79/232* (11 September 2024), para. 71; UN Palestine, *Statement on the killing and arbitrary detention of health workers in Gaza - OHCHR*, (25 June 2024), <<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/statement-gaza-ohchr-25jun24/>>.

185 UN HRC, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, A/79/232* (11 September 2024), para. 71.

186 *Ibid.*; UN OHCHR, *Israel's escalating use of torture against Palestinians in custody a preventable crime against humanity: UN expert*, (5 August 2024), <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/08/israels-escalating-use-torture-against-palestinians-custody-preventable>>; B'Tselem, *"Sde Teiman is only the tip of the iceberg": Israeli detention centers turned into a network of torture camps for Palestinians* (5 August 2024), <[https://www.btselem.org/press\\_releases/20240805\\_welcome\\_to\\_hell](https://www.btselem.org/press_releases/20240805_welcome_to_hell)>; UNRWA, *Detention and alleged ill-treatment of detainees from Gaza during Israel-Hamas War*, <[https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/summary\\_on\\_detention\\_and\\_alleged\\_ill-treatmentupdated.pdf](https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/summary_on_detention_and_alleged_ill-treatmentupdated.pdf)>; (last accessed 30 December 2024).



torture on his body.<sup>187</sup> He was reportedly raped to death.<sup>188</sup>

Dr. Ziad Al-Dalou, an internal medicine physician, was abducted by Israeli forces from Al-Shifa Hospital on 18 March 2024. He was killed in Israeli custody by 21 March 2024. His death was not reported until September 2024.<sup>189</sup> The bodies of all three doctors documented as killed in Israeli custody are still being withheld by the Israeli authorities.

On 27 December 2024, the IOF raided and destroyed Kamal Adwan hospital in North Gaza, assaulting, detaining, and disappearing the Director of the hospital, Dr. Abu Safiya, and other medical staff.<sup>190</sup>

The UN Independent Commission of Inquiry on the OPT determined that mistreatment of Palestinian detainees by Israeli authorities is the result of an intentional policy.<sup>191</sup>

187 UN HRC, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, A/79/232* (11 September 2024), para. 71; UN News, *Rights expert condemns death of Palestinian doctor in Israeli custody, urges independent inquiry* (16 May 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/05/1149856>>; UN OHCHR, *UN expert horrified by death of Gazan orthopedic surgeon in Israeli detention* (16 May 2024), <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/05/un-expert-horrified-death-gazan-orthopedic-surgeon-israeli-detention#:~:text=standard%20of%20health-,Dr>>.

188 Simon Speakman Cordall, *Dying in 'Hell': The fate of Palestinian medics jailed by Israel*, Al Jazeera (24 November 2024), <<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/11/24/dying-in-hell-palestinian-medics-jailed-by-israel>>.

189 Visualizing Palestine, *Disappeared Doctors: Israel's systematic torture of Palestinians health workers* (October 2024), <<https://visualizingpalestine.org/visual/disappeared-doctors/>>.

190 Abeer Salman, Irene Nasser and Jomana Karadsheh, "Israel arrests hospital director and other staff in raid on last functioning facility in northern Gaza, health officials say", *CNN World* (28 December 2024), <<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/12/28/middleeast/kamal-adwan-israel-arrests-hospital-director-gaza-intl/index.html>>.

191 UN HRC, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, A/79/232* (11 September 2024), para. 102.

## D. The killing of Hind Rajab: targeting healthcare service vehicles

On 29 January 2024, PRCS received a call from 15-year-old Leyan Hamada and her five-year-old cousin, Hind Rajab. They were requesting urgent rescue after their family came under Israeli attack while trying to flee to safety in their car in the Tel al-Hawa neighborhood of Gaza City. Five other family members in the car with them were severely injured or killed by Israeli fire.<sup>192</sup> As Leyan was on the phone with PRCS, another round of Israeli tank fire on the car killed her.<sup>193</sup> Analysis of the crime scene shows that it is not plausible that the shooter could not have seen that the car was occupied by civilians, including children.<sup>194</sup> Hind, the only conscious survivor in the car, was on the phone with PRCS rescuers for three hours as she pleaded for help while the Israeli tank drew closer.<sup>195</sup> PRCS dispatched an ambulance with two paramedics, Yousef Zeino and Ahmed Al-Madhoun, after its route had been coordinated with Israeli forces.<sup>196</sup> The ambulance was hit by a tank shell 50 meters away from the family's car. Hind was still alive when the ambulance was dispatched.<sup>197</sup> Hind died as a result of Israeli forces preventing her rescue and killing the paramedics that they knew were heading to her aid.<sup>198</sup> The bodies of Hind and her six family members were unretrievable for 12 days after the attack.<sup>199</sup> The destroyed ambulance was found nearby, with the remains of the paramedics inside.<sup>200</sup>

192 Forensic Architecture, *The Killing of Hind Rajab*, <<https://forensic-architecture.org/investigation/the-killing-of-hind-rajab>>.

193 *Ibid.*

194 Forensic Architecture, *The Killing of Hind Rajab*, <<https://forensic-architecture.org/investigation/the-killing-of-hind-rajab>>.

195 UN OHCHR, *Gaza: Killing of Hind Rajab and her family – a war crime too many, warn human rights experts*, (19 July 2024), <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/07/gaza-killing-hind-rajab-and-her-family-war-crime-too-many-warn-experts>>.

196 UN HRC, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel*, A/79/232 (11 September 2024), para. 11.

197 *Ibid.*

198 AJ+, Instagram (11 February 2024), <<https://www.instagram.com/ajplus/reel/C3NfVAilySa/?hl=en>>.

199 UN HRC, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel*, A/79/232 (11 September 2024), para. 11.

200 *Ibid.*; ICRC, *Customary IHL Rule 28: Medical Units and Rule 29: Medical Transports and Rule 30: Persons and Objects Displaying the Distinctive Emblem*; Fourth Geneva Convention, Art. 18, *Wounded and Sick III. Protection of hospitals*; First Geneva Convention, Art. 19, *Protection of medical units and establishments*, <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gci-1949/article-19?activeTab=undefined>>; First Geneva Convention, Art. 35, *Protection of medical transports*.



The remains of the PRCS ambulance bombed by Israeli forces on its way to rescue Hind Rajab. [@PalestineRCS/X]

The killing of Hind Rajab is indicative of a wider Israeli practice of targeting healthcare infrastructure and vehicles.<sup>201</sup> There are several instances recorded of Israeli forces targeting ambulances, paramedics, and humanitarian aid vehicles.<sup>202</sup> A blockade on resources, including fuel shortages, and obstruction of access threaten the ability of ambulances to reach the critically injured and render aid.<sup>203</sup> From 7 October 2023 to 25 September 2024, WHO documented 115 ambulances affected by Israeli attacks on healthcare infrastructure in the Gaza Strip.<sup>204</sup>

201 HRW, *Gaza: Israeli Ambulance Strike Apparently Unlawful*, (7 November 2023), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/11/07/gaza-israeli-ambulance-strike-apparently-unlawful#:> (Israeli airstrike on ambulance outside Al-Shifa Hospital 3 November 2023: video shows a woman on a stretcher and several dead and injured surrounding the ambulance, including five children, immediately following the strike); WHO, *Attacks on health care in Gaza Strip unacceptable, says WHO* (4 November 2023), <https://www.emro.who.int/media/news/attacks-on-health-care-in-gaza-strip-unacceptable-says-who.html>.

202 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #65* (10 December 2023), <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-65>; UNOCHA, *Flash Update #193* (19 July 2024), <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-193-gaza-strip>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #231* (22 October 2024), <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-231-gaza-strip>.

203 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #206* (19 August 2024), <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-206-gaza-strip>.

204 WHO, *oPt Emergency Situation Update*, (25 Sept. 2024), [https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep\\_46b.pdf?ua=1](https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep_46b.pdf?ua=1); WHO, *UN News* (5 January 2024), <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/01/1145317> (Nearly 600 attacks on healthcare in Gaza and West Bank since war began).



An ambulance destroyed by Israeli bombardment in Jabalia, North Gaza, 29 December 2023.  
[Photo verified by the Forensic Architecture Unit.]

## E. The attacks on Gaza's healthcare must cease

As of December 2024, there are no fully functional hospitals left in the Gaza Strip to serve a population of over 2.3 million people under intense military assault and facing an Israeli-imposed genocide, famine, and the rapid spread of infectious and deadly diseases. Of the 36 total hospitals throughout the Gaza Strip, few remain partially functional with severe limitations.<sup>205</sup> Dr. Tanya Haj-Hassan stated:

People think you're safe when you're working in a hospital but that's clearly not the case here. We were having to pick who lived and died, because there are such limited resources. All the patients I saw were civilians. Almost all the Palestinian doctors I have spoken to have lost at least one loved one since the war started. Many of them have friends or family still missing, or colleagues arbitrarily detained by the army. It's hard to appreciate how much they have gone through. It's really difficult to process the injustice of it.<sup>206</sup>

As Israeli airstrikes and military activity intensify throughout the Gaza Strip, preventing hospitals from accessing fuel and critical supplies, a continuous flow of injured, dying, and sick patients flood hospital wards.<sup>207</sup> As of 30 September 2024, 76 percent of still partially functioning hospitals across Gaza have insufficient water supply, 94 percent struggle with insufficient sanitation facilities, 71 percent are unable to follow proper hand hygiene practices, 82 percent have insufficient personal protective equipment (PPE), and all hospitals lack sufficient means to maintain adequate environmental cleaning standards.<sup>208</sup> In addition, Israel is blocking humanitarian access to hospitals

205 WHO, *Six months of war leave Al-Shifa hospital in ruins, WHO mission reports* (6 April 2024), <[https://www.who.int/news/item/06-04-2024-six-months-of-war-leave-al-shifa-hospital-in-ruins--who-mission-reports#:;](https://www.who.int/news/item/06-04-2024-six-months-of-war-leave-al-shifa-hospital-in-ruins--who-mission-reports#:)> UN OCHA, *Reported Impact Snapshot* (2 October 2024) <[https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/Gaza\\_Reported\\_Impact\\_Snapshot\\_02\\_October\\_2024.pdf](https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/Gaza_Reported_Impact_Snapshot_02_October_2024.pdf)>.

206 MAP UK, *'There are no more words' - Six months of Israel's total siege and bombardment of Gaza leaves tens of thousands dead, the healthcare system in ruins, and a starving population* (8 April 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/there-are-no-more-words-six-months-israels-total-siege-and-bombardment-gaza-leaves-tens-thousands-dead-healthcare-system-ruins-and-starving-population#>>.

207 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #231* (22 October 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-231-gaza-strip>>.

208 *Ibid.*



and 83 percent of food aid from reaching Gaza.<sup>209</sup>

We once again reiterate with urgency the need for an end to Israel's ongoing genocide, a total ceasefire, an arms embargo, and for the international community to address Israel's systematic targeting of hospitals and medical units to create conditions in the Gaza Strip to destroy Palestinian life.

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209 NRC, *Israel's siege now blocks 38% of food aid reaching Gaza, new data reveals*, (16 September 2024), <<https://www.nrc.no/news/2024/september/israels-siege-now-blocks-83-of-food-aid-reaching-gaza-new-data-reveals/>>; Brett Murphy, *Blinken Rejected Officials Who Concluded Israel Deliberately Blocked Humanitarian Aid to Gaza*, ProPublica (24 September 2024), <<https://www.propublica.org/article/gaza-palestine-israel-blocked-humanitarian-aid-blinken>>.



## SYSTEMATIC TARGETING OF HOSPITALS

### A. Deprivation of resources

On 9 October 2023, Yoav Gallant, Israeli Minister of Defense, announced a total blockade on all food, water, electricity, and fuel from entering the Gaza Strip, stating “We are imposing a complete siege on [Gaza]. No electricity, no food, no water, no fuel — everything is closed. We are fighting human animals, and we act accordingly.”<sup>210</sup> On 10 October, Coordinator of the Government in the Territories (COGAT) Major General Ghassan Alian announced, “Israel has imposed a total blockade on Gaza, no electricity, no water, just damage. You wanted hell, you will get hell.”<sup>211</sup> On 11 October, Israel cut off the electricity in the Gaza Strip and prohibited the entry of fuel and humanitarian aid, and the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Israel Katz stated, “For years, we supplied Gaza with electricity, water and fuel. Instead of saying thank you, they sent thousands of human animals to slaughter, murder, rape and kidnap babies, women and the elderly — that’s why we decided to stop the flow of water, electricity and fuel and now their

210 Al-Haq, Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, PCHR, *Palestinian Human Rights Organisations Call on Third States to Urgently Intervene to Protect the Palestinian People Against Genocide* (13 October 2023), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/21898.html>>; @yoavgallant, X (9 October 2023), <<https://twitter.com/yoavgallant/status/1711335592942875097>> (“I have ordered a complete blockade of Gaza. We are fighting human animals, and we act accordingly.”)

211 *Ibid.*; @cogatonline, X (10 Oct. 2023), <<https://twitter.com/cogatonline/status/1711718883323752586?t=UAM2bzjS-PRdJv1hIQY-Wg&s=09>> (“You wanted hell, you will get hell.”)

local power station has collapsed and there is no electricity in Gaza.”<sup>212</sup>

Statements by Israeli government officials promising to impose a deprivation of resources expose genocidal intent to destroy the Palestinian people in Gaza.<sup>213</sup> The imposition of a total siege of food, water, fuel, and electricity from entering Gaza has been and continues to systematically destroy Gaza’s healthcare infrastructure and deprive medical care and critical resources to those in dire need amidst Israeli bombardment.

On 8 October — just the second day of Israel’s bombing campaign in Gaza — Dr. Mohammed Abu-Salmiya, the director of Al-Shifa Hospital, warned that Gaza’s hospitals could run out of fuel soon after Israel cut off the supplies. According to Dr. Abu-Salmiya, half of the stockpile of medicines at Al-Shifa had been used already.<sup>214</sup> By 12 October 2023, the World Health Organization was already warning that the health system in the Gaza Strip was at a breaking point. Hospitals only had a few hours of electricity each day as they rationed depleting fuel reserves and relied on generators to maintain critical functions. Patients on respirators and babies in incubators faced death as the final fuel stocks ran out, and cancer care patients faced a life-threatening lack of access to treatments.<sup>215</sup> The World Health Organization warned of a humanitarian catastrophe “if fuel and life-saving health and humanitarian supplies cannot be urgently delivered to the Gaza Strip amidst the complete blockade.”<sup>216</sup>

212 Marium Ali, Alia Chughtai, *More than a month without water, food, healthcare in Gaza amid Israel war*, Al Jazeera (7 November 2023), <<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/7/one-month-of-no-water-food-and-healthcare-for-gaza>>; Al-Haq, Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, PCHR, *Palestinian Human Rights Organisations Call on Third States to Urgently Intervene to Protect the Palestinian People Against Genocide* (13 October 2023), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/21898.html>>; @Israelktaz, X (11 October 2023), <[https://twitter.com/Israel\\_katz/status/171208312227909116?t=nd9aPqyMtpUXy4A0HhqFMw&s=09](https://twitter.com/Israel_katz/status/171208312227909116?t=nd9aPqyMtpUXy4A0HhqFMw&s=09)> (“For years we provided Gaza with electricity, water and fuel. Instead of saying thank you, they sent thousands of human animals to slaughter, murder, rape and kidnap babies, women and the elderly - so we decided to stop the flow of water, electricity and fuel and now their local power station has collapsed and there is no electricity in Gaza. We will continue to tighten the siege until the Hamas threat to Israel and the world is removed. What was will not be.”)

213 ICRC, *Collective punishments*, <[https://casebook.icrc.org/a\\_to\\_z/glossary/collective-punishments](https://casebook.icrc.org/a_to_z/glossary/collective-punishments)> (last accessed 30 December 2024).

214 Forensic Architecture, Al Shifa Hospital, <<https://shifa.forensic-architecture.org/>> (last accessed 30 December 2024).

215 WHO, *Hospitals in the Gaza Strip at a breaking point, warns WHO* (12 October 2023), <<https://www.emro.who.int/opt/news/hospitals-in-the-gaza-strip-at-a-breaking-point-warns-who.html>>; WHO, *As Gaza's health system disintegrates, WHO calls for safe passage of fuel, supplies for health facilities* (24 October 2024), <<https://www.emro.who.int/media/news/as-gazas-health-system-disintegrates-who-calls-for-safe-passage-of-fuel-supplies-for-health-facilities.html>>.

216 WHO, *Hospitals in the Gaza Strip at a breaking point, warns WHO* (12 October 2023), <<https://www.emro.who.int/opt/news/hospitals-in-the-gaza-strip-at-a-breaking-point-warns-who.html>>.



The lack of electricity means that Gaza's desalination and wastewater treatment plants cannot function, limiting access to safe drinking water for 2.3 million people.<sup>217</sup> In addition, Israeli forces have damaged or destroyed five water and sanitation infrastructure sites every three days between 7 October 2023 and 17 July 2024.<sup>218</sup> Over the course of the last year, Palestinians have been forced to drink polluted, salty water, and queue for hours to receive a small ration of potable water.<sup>219</sup> The World Health Organization states that between 50 to 100 liters of water are required per person per day.<sup>220</sup> Israel's systematic destruction of water facilities and infrastructure has reduced the amount of water available in Gaza by 94 percent to just 4.74 liters per person a day — less than a third of the recommended minimum in emergencies and less than a single toilet flush — for both drinking and hygiene.<sup>221</sup> As a result, disease and dehydration are spreading rapidly.<sup>222</sup>

Israeli-imposed starvation is killing people throughout the Gaza Strip, with serious implications for the future development of Palestinian children and their right to health. In the north, Palestinians have resorted to eating animal feed and tree leaves in the absence of all other sources of food.<sup>223</sup> The entire population of 2.3 million people in Gaza is facing acute food shortages, with an estimated

217 UNICEF, *Gaza Strip: Critical water and wastewater infrastructure*, (22 October 2023), <<https://reliefweb.int/map/occupied-palestinian-territory/gaza-strip-critical-water-and-wastewater-infrastructure-22-october-2023>>.

218 Oxfam, *Israel using water as weapon of war as Gaza supply plummets by 94%, creating deadly health catastrophe*, (17 July 2024), <<https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/israel-using-water-weapon-war-gaza-supply-plummets-94-creating-deadly-health>>; European Commission, *Statement by the High Representative on the destruction of critical civilian infrastructure and worsening humanitarian situation*, (5 August 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/gaza-statement-high-representative-destruction-critical-civilian-infrastructure-and-worsening-humanitarian-situation>>; @ytirawi, X (26 July 2024), <<https://x.com/ytirawi/status/1816965332952555683>>.

219 UNICEF, *Water crisis takes a toll on Gaza's children*, (6 Aug. 2024), <<https://www.unicef.org/stories/water-crisis-takes-toll-gazas-children#>>.

220 United Nations Office to support the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life', p. 2, <[https://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/human\\_right\\_to\\_water\\_and\\_sanitation\\_media\\_brief.pdf](https://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/human_right_to_water_and_sanitation_media_brief.pdf)>, (last accessed 30 December 2024).

221 Oxfam, *Israel using water as weapon of war as Gaza supply plummets by 94%, creating deadly health catastrophe*, (17 July 2024), <<https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/israel-using-water-weapon-war-gaza-supply-plummets-94-creating-deadly-health>>.

222 UNICEF, *Water crisis takes a toll on Gaza's children*, (6 August 2024), <<https://www.unicef.org/stories/water-crisis-takes-toll-gazas-children#>>.

223 Save the Children, *Gaza: Families forced to forage for food left by rats as 1.1 million children face starvation*, (22 February 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/gaza-families-forced-forage-food-left-rats-11-million-children-face-starvation>>.

576,000 people experiencing catastrophic levels of hunger as of February 2024.<sup>224</sup> The UN reports that Palestinians in Gaza are experiencing the fastest decline in a population's nutrition status ever recorded.<sup>225</sup> From 7 October 2023 to 9 July 2024, at least 34 Palestinians died of Israeli-imposed starvation, the majority of whom were children.<sup>226</sup> By January 2024, one in six infants (children under the age of two) in northern Gaza were found to be acutely malnourished, leading to a condition known as wasting.<sup>227</sup> By March 2024, all 335,000 children under the age of five in the Gaza Strip were at high risk of severe malnutrition, with severe developmental consequences for the future of Palestinian children in Gaza.<sup>228</sup> Furthermore, 90 percent of children under the age of five were affected by one or more infectious diseases, and 70 percent were afflicted with diarrhea.<sup>229</sup> As of March 2024, 27 children across the Gaza Strip — at least 15 at Kamal Adwan Hospital — died from malnutrition and dehydration, although the starvation death toll is likely much higher and is set to rise.<sup>230</sup> At the beginning of June 2024, two children at Al-Aqsa Hospital died from malnutrition and a lack of access to adequate healthcare, and a third child died in a tent sheltering his displaced family in Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis.<sup>231</sup> Children in Gaza are being starved to death.<sup>232</sup>

224 IRC and MAP, *Urgent action needed to prevent starvation in Gaza; IRC and MAP call for an immediate ceasefire and scale up of aid*, (28 February 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/urgent-action-needed-prevent-starvation-gaza-irc-and-map-call-immediate-ceasefire-and-scale-aid>>; Save the Children, *Devastating new figures reveal Gaza's child hunger catastrophe* (25 June 2024), <<https://www.savethechildren.net/news/devastating-new-figures-reveal-gaza-s-child-hunger-catastrophe>>.

225 IRC and MAP, *Urgent action needed to prevent starvation in Gaza; IRC and MAP call for an immediate ceasefire and scale up of aid*, (28 February 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/urgent-action-needed-prevent-starvation-gaza-irc-and-map-call-immediate-ceasefire-and-scale-aid>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #123* (21 February 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-123>>.

226 UN OHCHR, *UN experts declare famine has spread throughout Gaza strip* (9 July 2024), <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/07/un-experts-declare-famine-has-spread-throughout-gaza-strip>>.

227 UN HRC, *UN experts condemn 'flour massacre', urge Israel to end campaign of starvation in Gaza* (5 March 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-experts-condemn-flour-massacre-urge-israel-end-campaign-starvation-gaza>>.

228 *Ibid.*

229 *Ibid.*

230 Press release, *Gaza: Halt the war now to save children from dying of imminent famine, UN Committee warns*, UN OHCHR (21 March 2024), <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/03/gaza-halt-war-now-save-children-dying-imminent-famine-un-committee-warns>>; UNICEF, *Gaza's Children: Trapped in a cycle of suffering*, (26 March 2024), <<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/gazas-children-trapped-cycle-suffering>>.

231 Press release, *UN experts declare famine has spread throughout Gaza strip*, UN OHCHR (9 July 2024), <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/07/un-experts-declare-famine-has-spread-throughout-gaza-strip>>.

232 IRC and MAP, *Urgent action needed to prevent starvation in Gaza; IRC and MAP call for an immediate ceasefire and scale up of aid*, (28 February 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/urgent-action-needed-prevent-starvation-gaza-irc-and-map-call-immediate-ceasefire-and-scale-aid>>.



Fadi Zant, aged 9, experiencing malnutrition, receives treatment after evacuated from the northern Gaza Strip to the IMC field hospital in Rafah. 26 March 2024. [@alijadallah66X]

Disease is spreading rapidly throughout the Gaza Strip amid the overcrowding of 1.9 million displaced people (90 percent of the population) into cramped shelters and makeshift structures, matched with a deprivation of basic resources.<sup>233</sup> Rates of diarrhea, respiratory infections, chicken pox, cholera, typhoid, and hepatitis are multiplying rapidly.<sup>234</sup> On 17 November 2023, the World Health Organization documented more than 44,000 cases of diarrhea and 70,000 acute respiratory infections in Gaza shelters, although actual numbers were likely significantly higher.<sup>235</sup> By 28 February 2024, more than 300,000 cases of acute respiratory infections and more than 200,000 cases of diarrhea,

233 UNRWA, *Situation Report #140* (27 September 2024), <<https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-140-situation-gaza-strip-and-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem>>; In March, Palestinians in Rafah on average had one toilet for every 850 people, and one shower for every 3,600 people, see UNICEF, *Gaza's Children: Trapped in a cycle of suffering*, (26 March 2024), <<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/gazas-children-trapped-cycle-suffering>>.

234 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #44* (19 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-44>>.

235 *Ibid.*



of whom more than half are children under the age of five, were reported.<sup>236</sup> Between March and September 2024, approximately 58,000 additional deaths primarily due to the spread of infectious disease were projected if there is no ceasefire.<sup>237</sup> It is uncertain how many Palestinians have died from disease as collecting data is growing increasingly difficult for the Gaza Health Ministry due to the destruction of the healthcare system.<sup>238</sup>

Rains and floods from the winter of 2023, and the winter of 2024, compound an already dire situation, advancing the spread of disease, hypothermia, and starvation. The degree to which Israel has destroyed the topography of the Gaza Strip has climate-related consequences, including an increase in areas at risk of flooding.<sup>239</sup> In addition to the risk of drowning, injuries, and exacerbating the spread of water- and vector-borne disease, access to basic healthcare services are expected to be further compromised as 47 percent of health service points in the Gaza Strip “are at risk of being flooding hotspots” and could become inaccessible to the population.<sup>240</sup>

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236 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #123* (21 February 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-123?>>.

237 IRC and MAP, *Urgent action needed to prevent starvation in Gaza; IRC and MAP call for an immediate ceasefire and scale up of aid*, (28 Feb. 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/urgent-action-needed-prevent-starvation-gaza-irc-and-map-call-immediate-ceasefire-and-scale-aid>>.

238 Rasha Khatib, Martin McKee, and Salim Yusuf, *Counting the dead in Gaza: difficult but essential*, 404 *The Lancet* (20 July 2024), 237-238 <[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01169-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01169-3/fulltext)>.

239 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #223* (27 September 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-223-gaza-strip#:>>.

240 *Ibid.*

## B. Intimidation

The IOF continuously bomb in and around hospitals and other civilian areas in acts of intimidation of medical workers, patients, and civilians seeking shelter. In October 2023, the Israeli military issued evacuation orders to all hospitals in northern Gaza, where thousands of patients, healthcare workers, and approximately 117,000 displaced persons were sheltering.<sup>241</sup> The evacuation orders are a “death sentence for the sick and injured.”<sup>242</sup> These acts of intimidation are integral to Israel’s genocidal campaign, inflicting panic across the Palestinian population and sending a message that nowhere is safe for Palestinians to survive in the Gaza Strip.<sup>243</sup>

The immediate vicinity of Al-Shifa Hospital came under intense bombardment from the very beginning of the latest military assault on the Gaza Strip. On 9 October 2023, Israeli strikes near Al-Shifa Hospital damaged the nursery department.<sup>244</sup> The hospital overflowed with civilians seeking shelter and patients in need of medical treatment for injuries caused by the airstrikes. On 13 October 2023, Al-Shifa Hospital director Dr. Mohammad Abu-Salmiya reported that “the hospital yard is now filled with martyrs for families to give a quick farewell, before being taken out of the yard and buried.”<sup>245</sup> The rapidly rising death toll filled the morgue to capacity by November 2023.<sup>246</sup> A refrigerator truck was brought to the hospital as an additional morgue.<sup>247</sup> Doctors were forced to dig mass graves and makeshift burial grounds throughout the hospital’s

241 WHO, *Evacuation orders by Israel to hospitals in northern Gaza are a death sentence for the sick and injured*, (14 October 2023), <<https://www.who.int/news/item/14-10-2023-evacuation-orders-by-israel-to-hospitals-in-northern-gaza-are-a-death-sentence-for-the-sick-and-injured>>; Al-Haq, *Gaza Hospitals Are Collapsing and Can Be Targeted Anytime: The International Community Must Intervene and Stop More Israeli Massacres of Palestinian Civilians* (2 November 2023), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/22075.html>>.

242 WHO, *Evacuation orders by Israel to hospitals in northern Gaza are a death sentence for the sick and injured*, (14 October 2023), <<https://www.who.int/news/item/14-10-2023-evacuation-orders-by-israel-to-hospitals-in-northern-gaza-are-a-death-sentence-for-the-sick-and-injured>>.

243 See Al-Haq, *How to Hide a Genocide: The Role of Evacuation Orders and Safe Zones in Israel’s Genocidal Campaign in Gaza* (December 2024), <<https://www.alhaq.org/publications/25781.html>>.

244 Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Shifa Medical Complex*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/94>>.

245 Forensic Architecture, *Destruction of Medical Infrastructure in Gaza*, <<https://forensic-architecture.org/investigation/destruction-of-medical-infrastructure-in-gaza>>.

246 Forensic Architecture, *Mass Burials at Al-Shifa Hospital*, <<https://forensic-architecture.org/investigation/mass-burials-at-al-shifa-hospital>>.

247 *Ibid.*

courtyard to cope with the multiplying number of bodies.<sup>248</sup>

Al-Shifa Hospital was not only inundated with wounded civilians streaming in from nearby neighborhoods, but from other hospitals targeted or forced out of service from the Israeli siege and bombardment. Most of the wounded from a strike on Al-Ahli Hospital on 17 October flooded Al-Shifa Hospital, forcing doctors to attempt surgery on the floor and in the halls, mostly without anesthesia.<sup>249</sup> By 25 October, electricity was completely cut off at Al-Shifa after running out of fuel.<sup>250</sup>



Infrastructures and health workers from al-Shifa hospital are overwhelmed with the stream of injured patients to treat, and number of killed, some of whom are just left on the floor due to lack of space, following the attack on al-Ahli al-Arabi Hospital, Gaza city. 18 October 2023.

[Mohammed Zaanoun]

The Indonesian Hospital, along with Al-Shifa, is one of the largest healthcare facilities in the Gaza Strip. As Beit Lahiya and Jabalia Refugee Camp came under intense bombardment in October 2023, at least 1,500 displaced civilians

248 *Ibid.*; @OsaidesserMD, X (13 Oct. 2023), <<https://x.com/OsaidesserMD/status/1712996210506707359?s=20>>.

249 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #12* (18 October 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-12>>; Forensic Architecture, *Israeli Disinformation: Al-Ahli Hospital*, <<https://forensic-architecture.org/investigation/israeli-disinformation-al-ahli-hospital>>.

250 Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Shifa Medical Complex*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/94>>.

sought shelter and safety within the hospital's grounds.<sup>251</sup> On 7 October, Israeli forces conducted an airstrike right outside of the Indonesian Hospital, killing two people, including a hospital staff member.<sup>252</sup> Heavy bombardment and airstrikes around the vicinity of the hospital continued for the next several weeks.<sup>253</sup> On 28 October, Israeli forces targeted the Qlaibo residential area next to the hospital, completely leveling at least two high-rise residential apartment buildings and subjecting an area 150 meters away from where civilians were sheltering to heavy bombardment.<sup>254</sup> On 30 October 2023, Israeli attacks in the immediate vicinity of the Indonesian Hospital "greatly damaged the hospital and endangered the life of hundreds of injured, patients, medical staff, journalists, as well as thousands of displaced persons taking shelter."<sup>255</sup> Videos of the strikes reveal the heavy smoke and close proximity to sheltering patients, civilians, and healthcare workers.<sup>256</sup> Repeated Israeli shelling around the Indonesian Hospital destroyed parts of the roof.<sup>257</sup> By the end of October, the hospital ran out of fuel and was forced to shut down its main generator.<sup>258</sup>

The Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya soon became one of two hospitals in all of north Gaza still admitting patients and operating with limited services.<sup>259</sup> Prior to 7 October 2023, there were 24 medical facilities in the north of Gaza.<sup>260</sup> On 7 November 2023, Israeli forces bombed areas in close proximity to the Indonesian and Kamal Adwan hospitals, killing several people and damaging

251 Al-Haq, *Gaza Hospitals Are Collapsing and Can Be Targeted Anytime: The International Community Must Intervene and Stop More Israeli Massacres of Palestinian Civilians* (2 November 2023), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/22075.html>>.

252 Forensic Architecture, *The targeting of the Indonesian Hospital*, <<https://indonesian.alhaq.org/>>.

253 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #35* (10 November 2023), <[https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-35?>](https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-35?).

254 Forensic Architecture, *The targeting of the Indonesian Hospital*, <<https://indonesian.alhaq.org/>>; @Mhmd\_Rahman90, X (28 October 2023), <[https://twitter.com/Mhmd\\_Rahman90/status/1718303904184619218](https://twitter.com/Mhmd_Rahman90/status/1718303904184619218)>.

255 Al-Haq, *Gaza Hospitals Are Collapsing and Can Be Targeted Anytime: The International Community Must Intervene and Stop More Israeli Massacres of Palestinian Civilians* (2 November 2023), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/22075.html>>.

256 Forensic Architecture, *The targeting of the Indonesian Hospital*, <<https://indonesian.alhaq.org/>>; @ShehabTelegram, Telegram, <<https://t.me/ShehabTelegram/412401>>.

257 Al-Haq, *Gaza Hospitals Are Collapsing and Can Be Targeted Anytime: The International Community Must Intervene and Stop More Israeli Massacres of Palestinian Civilians* (2 November 2023), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/22075.html>>.

258 *Ibid.*; Forensic Architecture, *The targeting of the Indonesian Hospital*, <<https://indonesian.alhaq.org/>>.

259 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #48* (23 November 2023), <[https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-48?>](https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-48?).

260 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #61* (6 December 2023), <[https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-61?>](https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-61?).

buildings and equipment.<sup>261</sup> As the hospital coped with an influx of patients, it suffered from a deprivation of fuel and increasing Israeli airstrikes around the facility. On 22 November, three children, including an infant in an incubator, died in Kamal Adwan due to the lack of electricity.<sup>262</sup> That same day, the area of the hospital came under heavy Israeli bombardment, resulting in dozens of people killed and injured.<sup>263</sup>

Al-Aqsa Hospital became the last functioning hospital in Deir al-Balah by 7 January 2024. The World Health Organization described the situation at Al-Aqsa Hospital as a “bloodbath” as hundreds of injured patients flooded the already-strained hospital following airstrikes on the nearby Al-Bureij, Al-Nuseirat, and Al-Maghazi refugee camps.<sup>264</sup> As shelling intensified and got closer to the hospital, the Israeli military sent in unmanned quadcopters. Reports indicate that these quadcopters shot at “anything that moved” outside of the hospital, “sending tens of thousands of families scrambling to dismantle their tents and flee for their lives.”<sup>265</sup> Amid intensified Israeli targeting around the vicinity of the hospital, MSF and other humanitarian organizations were forced to evacuate their healthcare workers from the hospital and leave patients behind after the IOF declared the area around Al-Aqsa Hospital a “red-zone.”<sup>266</sup>

The vicinity of the Al-Amal and Nasser hospitals were targeted by Israeli forces throughout December 2023 and January 2024. The Israeli military repeatedly targeted the vicinity of Al-Amal Hospital, sheltering approximately 14,000 people,

261 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #32* (7 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-32>>.

262 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #48* (23 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-48>>.

263 *Ibid.*

264 UN News, *Gaza health workers pushed to the limit amid airstrike ‘carnage’*, (26 December 2023), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1145077>>; MSF, *Hospitals in south Gaza overflow with hundreds of injured as Israeli forces step up bombardment*, (4 December 2023), <<https://www.msf.org/hospitals-south-gaza-overflow-hundreds-injured>>.

265 Abdelhakim Abu Riash, *Terrified people flee Israeli attacks at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital* (10 January 2024), <<https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2024/1/10/photos-al-aqsa-martyrs-hospital>>.

266 Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/index.php/en/node/3>>; MSF, *Evacuation orders and bombing around Gaza hospitals leaves few healthcare options* (12 January 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/evacuation-orders-and-bombing-around-gaza-hospitals-leaves-few-healthcare-options>>; IRC, *On the ground with a doctor in Gaza* (9 February 2024), <<https://www.rescue.org/article/ground-doctor-gaza>>.



with fire belt bombing and drone fire.<sup>267</sup> The intensity of the bombing around Nasser Hospital caused displaced people and patients to flee the hospital grounds, with nearly half of the healthcare staff forced to evacuate Nasser Hospital following IOF evacuation orders.<sup>268</sup>

The Israeli military's intimidation of healthcare workers, patients, and displaced civilians sheltering in hospitals throughout the Gaza Strip sent a message to Palestinians in Gaza that nowhere was safe to escape Israeli bombs. In systematic acts of intimidation inflicted on healthcare facilities throughout the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces violated the protected status of hospitals by targeting medical facilities in acts of genocide that deliberately inflicted conditions to eradicate any safe place for Palestinian life in Gaza.



Injured Palestinians crowding together in Nasser Hospital after the bombing of a residential area near a school sheltering a large number of displaced Palestinians, Khan Yunis, south of Gaza Strip. 3 December 2023. [Mohammed Zaanoun]

267 Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Amal Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/index.php/en/node/76>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #99* (22 January 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-99>>; PRCS, Facebook (20 January 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid021sFNNkn1k29XUtrungXidYRmtBgzsJdtnPxQTtUZNem7BbMaggiwUWnqhZTXvTql>>; PRCS, Facebook (21 January 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid02PPe4gLSzeNUC8e2RueyGfpaAhqzt73egfT1FgGdhT6bwq1EXw8b4FFrEWwetgCSl>>; PRCS, Facebook (18 January 2024), <<https://shorturl.at/oeiOy>>.

268 Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Nasser Medical Complex*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/index.php/en/node/73>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #99* (22 January 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-99>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #95* (17 January 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-95>>.



## C. Direct targeting

The Israeli military, following acts of intimidation, directly targeted healthcare facilities across the Gaza Strip, subjecting healthcare workers, patients, displaced civilians, and healthcare infrastructure to targeted airstrikes and killings. As of 24 December 2024, 14 months into Israel's genocidal campaign, at least 1,057 healthcare workers were killed by Israel and every single hospital has been partially or fully destroyed.<sup>269</sup>

The Israeli military prepared to directly target Al-Shifa Hospital on 27 October 2023 when the chief military spokesman Daniel Hagari announced to a news conference that " Hamas has turned hospitals into command and control centers and hideouts for Hamas terrorists and commanders."<sup>270</sup> The official Israeli military account on the social media platform X published an animated video created by the Israeli military as 'evidence' that there is an extensive tunnel network and command center used by militants below Al-Shifa Hospital.<sup>271</sup> The Israeli military's publication of an animated video without verifiable evidence as to any military activity in Al-Shifa Hospital was an attempt to obscure the protected status of the hospital. Hours after Hagari's announcement, the communications network in the Gaza Strip was cut off, preventing Palestinians in Gaza from communicating with

269 UN OCHA, *Reported Impact Snapshot, Gaza Strip* (24 December 2024), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/reported-impact-snapshot-gaza-strip-24-december-2024-1500>>; Healthcare Workers Watch, *The Killing, Detention, and Torture of Healthcare Workers in Gaza* (7 October 2024), p. 5, <[https://healthcareworkerswatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/HWW-report\\_The-killing-detention-and-torture-of-HCWs-in-Gaza\\_October-72024\\_Final.pdf](https://healthcareworkerswatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/HWW-report_The-killing-detention-and-torture-of-HCWs-in-Gaza_October-72024_Final.pdf)>; *Middle East Eye* (17 September 2024), <<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/nearly-1000-palestinian-health-workers-killed-israeli-forces-gaza-named>>; Healthcare Workers Watch, *The Killing, Detention and Torture of Healthcare workers in Gaza* (7 October 2024), <<https://healthcareworkerswatch.org/publications/reports/the-killing-detention-and-torture-of-healthcare-workers-in-gaza/>>; Diakonia, *2023-2024 Hostilities and Escalating Violence in the oPt* (12 January 2024), <<https://www.diakonia.se/ihl/news/2023-hostilities-in-gaza-and-israel-factual-account-of-events/>>.

270 Al-Haq, *Gaza Hospitals Are Collapsing and Can Be Targeted Anytime: The International Community Must Intervene and Stop More Israeli Massacres of Palestinian Civilians* (2 November 2023), <<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/22075.html>>; "Israeli military says Hamas hiding tunnels, operation centres in Gaza hospital", *Reuters* (27 October 2023), <<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-military-says-hamas-hiding-tunnels-operations-centres-gaza-hospital-2023-10-27/>>.

271 @IDF, X (27 Oct. 2023), <<https://x.com/IDF/status/1718010359397634252?s=20>>, ("The Shifa Hospital is not only the largest hospital in Gaza but it also acts as the main headquarters for Hamas' terrorist activity. Terrorism does not belong in a hospital and the IDF will operate to uncover any terrorist infrastructure."); Louisa Loveluck, Evan Hill, Jonathan Baran, Jarrett Ley, and Ellen Nakashima, "Investigating the assault on al-Shifa, Gaza's largest hospital," *The Washington Post* (21 December 2023), <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/12/21/al-shifa-hospital-gaza-hamas-israel/>>.

each other and the outside world.<sup>272</sup>

The Israeli military began directly striking Al-Shifa Hospital on 3 November 2023, when the IOF struck an ambulance convoy three times outside of the hospital's main gate, an area sheltering tens of thousands of displaced civilians.<sup>273</sup> Initial reports indicated that at least 13 people were killed and 26 injured.<sup>274</sup> Solar panels on the roof of the hospital were destroyed by the Israeli airstrikes.<sup>275</sup> At about the same time, the IOF struck Al-Quds and Indonesian hospitals in a series of airstrikes that resulted in a large number of casualties.<sup>276</sup>

Starting on the night of 10 November 2023, the IOF struck Al-Shifa Hospital multiple times.<sup>277</sup> The IOF struck the maternity ward of the hospital twice, as well as displaced civilians sheltering in tents near the outpatient department.<sup>278</sup> According to Dr. Ahmed Al-Mokhallalati, 14 people were killed and dozens more were injured.<sup>279</sup> At that point, Al-Shifa had 2,200 patients and 50,000 displaced civilians sheltering within the medical compound.<sup>280</sup> Graphic videos of the strikes show lifeless bodies of men, women, and children laying in pools of blood, and

272 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #22* (28 October 2023), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-22>>.

273 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #28* (3 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-28>>.

274 Forensic Architecture, *Al Shifa Hospital*, <<https://shifa.forensic-architecture.org/>> (last accessed 30 December 2024); UN OCHA, *Flash Update #28* (3 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-28>>.

275 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #29* (4 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-29>>.

276 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #28* (3 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-28>>.

277 WHO, *WHO loses communication with contacts in Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza amid reports of attacks* (12 November 2023), <<https://www.emro.who.int/media/news/who-loses-communication-with-contacts-in-al-shifa-hospital-in-gaza-amid-reports-of-attacks.html>>.

278 Al Jazeera English, *Gaza's Al-Shifa doctor: The struggle to save lives amid war*, Youtube (29 October 2024), <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4v5ToDOtpc>>; @TalktoAlJazeera, X (30 October 2024), <<https://x.com/TalktoAlJazeera/status/1851611698077016542>>; "Social media shows dead, wounded at Gaza hospital", *Reuters*, (10 Nov. 2023), <<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/verified-social-media-shows-dead-wounded-gazas-shifa-hospital-2023-11-10/>>.

279 Al Jazeera English, *Gaza's Al-Shifa doctor: The struggle to save lives amid war*, Youtube (29 Oct. 2024), <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4v5ToDOtpc>>; @TalktoAlJazeera, X (30 October 2024), <<https://x.com/TalktoAlJazeera/status/1851611698077016542>>; Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus @DrTedros, X (12 November 2023), <<https://x.com/DrTedros/status/1723795481401217509>>.

280 Al Jazeera English, *Gaza's Al-Shifa doctor: The struggle to save lives amid war*, Youtube (29 October 2024), <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4v5ToDOtpc>>; @TalktoAlJazeera, X (30 October 2024), <<https://x.com/TalktoAlJazeera/status/1851611698077016542>>.

people screaming as others tried to help the injured.<sup>281</sup> The deadly strikes on Al-Shifa Hospital compelled the exodus of countless Palestinians sheltering in the medical complex.<sup>282</sup> Those who attempted to flee were shot at by Israeli forces while waving white flags when exiting the medical complex.<sup>283</sup>

Israel's direct targeting of Al-Shifa Hospital was part of a broader strategy to systematically destroy the healthcare system in the rest of the Gaza Strip. As the largest, oldest, and main referral hospital in all of Gaza, Al-Shifa is the beating heart of Gaza's healthcare system. Crushing the hospital's ability to render aid or safety strained the remaining hospitals in the Gaza Strip, furthering their collapse, while sending a message to the Palestinian people that nowhere in Gaza is safe.

The Israeli military began directly striking the Indonesian Hospital as early as 7 October 2023, when an airstrike killed a staff member working at the hospital, injuring several civilians and healthcare workers, and severely damaging the hospital, including the oxygen plant.<sup>284</sup> On 9 November 2023, the Israeli military began conducting violent firebombing around the Indonesian Hospital, injuring several people within the facility sheltering approximately 20,000

281 Nidal Al-Mughrabi, "Palestinians flee Al Shifa hospital after deadly strike", *Reuters* (10 November 2023), <<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/palestinians-flee-al-shifa-hospital-after-deadly-strike-2023-11-10/>>; Reuters, *Social media shows dead, wounded at Gaza hospital*, (10 November 2023), <<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/verified-social-media-shows-dead-wounded-gazas-shifa-hospital-2023-11-10/>>; "Health centres in north Gaza under siege in /day of war against hospitals", *Al Jazeera* (10 November 2023), <<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/10/hospitals-in-north-gaza-come-under-siege-as-fighting-intensifies>>; @ahmedhijazee, X (10 November 2023), <<https://x.com/ahmedhijazee/status/1722875805691207890>>; @ahmedhijazee, X (9 November 2023), <<https://x.com/ahmedhijazee/status/1722758087264616797?s=20>>.

282 WHO, *WHO loses communication with contacts in Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza amid reports of attacks*, (12 November 2023), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/who-loses-communication-contacts-al-shifa-hospital-gaza-amid-reports-attacks-enar>>.

283 *Ibid.*; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #36* (11 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-36>>; Luis de Vega, "Crisis in Gaza's largest hospital: 'We need to evacuate now, but they shoot everyone who tries to escape'", *El Pais International* (11 November 2023), <<https://english.elpais.com/international/2023-11-11/crisis-in-gazas-largest-hospital-we-need-to-evacuate-now-but-they-shoot-everyone-who-tries-to-escape.html>>; MSF, *Gaza hospital staff: "I can't leave if you're shooting at me"*, (1 December 2023), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/gaza-hospital-staff-i-cant-leave-if-youre-shooting-me>>; For further instances of Israeli forces killing civilians waving white flags, see Clarissa Ward, Brent Swails, Kareem Khadder, and Eliza Mackintosh, "She was fleeing with her grandson, who was holding a white flag. Then she was shot", *CNN* (26 January 2024), <<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/01/26/middleeast/hala-khreis-white-flag-shooting-gaza-cmd-intl/index.html>> and Yasmine Salam and Caroline Radnofsky, "A group of Palestinian men waving a white flag is shot at, killing 1", *NBC News* (24 January 2024), <<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/gaza-palestinian-israel-white-flag-shot-dead-killed-rcna135419>>.

284 Forensic Architecture, *The targeting of the Indonesian Hospital*, <<https://indonesian.alhaq.org/>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Indonesian Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/81>>.

displaced people.<sup>285</sup> The hospital completely lost power, communication, and water on 10 November 2023.<sup>286</sup> The intensity of the Israeli bombing was so severe that flying shrapnel struck the hospital, causing structural damage.<sup>287</sup> Furthermore, airstrikes left behind 15-meter-diameter craters — roughly equivalent in length to a five-story building — only meters away from where patients and civilians were sheltering.<sup>288</sup> The hospital was thus rendered largely inoperable, deprived of electricity and critical supplies while facing intense bombardment as patients and civilians continued to stream into the hospital in search of shelter. People were forced to dig mass graves in a children's playground outside of the hospital to cope with the increasing piles of dead bodies.<sup>289</sup>

On 21 November 2023, the Israeli military directly attacked Al-Awda Hospital in the north of Gaza, killing three doctors and one patient, while injuring many other medical staff and patients.<sup>290</sup> MSF, which partners with and operates in Al-Awda Hospital since 2018, called for the urgent evacuation of more than 200 patients to a functioning medical facility.<sup>291</sup> The Israeli strike on Al-Awda Hospital killed two MSF doctors, Dr. Mahmoud Abu Nujaila and Dr. Ahmad Al Sahar, as well as another doctor, Dr. Ziad Al-Tatari. Dr. Abu Nujaila and Dr. Al Sahar were killed on the third and fourth floors of the hospital, despite MSF regularly sharing information about Al-Awda as a functioning hospital and the presence of medical staff there with all parties, including the sharing of GPS coordinates with the Israeli authorities the day before the Israeli military struck the hospital.<sup>292</sup> Approximately one month before his killing, Dr. Abu Nujaila wrote on a whiteboard regularly used for planning surgeries in the hospital, "Whoever stays until the end, will tell the story — we did what we could, remember us."<sup>293</sup> A photo of his message on the whiteboard, destroyed in the same bombing that killed him a month later, was published by MSF's social media account on X.<sup>294</sup>

285 *Ibid.*

286 Forensic Architecture, *The targeting of the Indonesian Hospital*, <<https://indonesian.alhaq.org/>>.

287 *Ibid.*

288 *Ibid.* (Forensic Architecture conducted aerial imagery analysis which shows large craters around 15 meters in diameter within 125 meters of the hospital, along with destruction to multiple residential buildings nearby).

289 *Ibid.*; @AJPalestine, Telegram (11 November 2023), <<https://t.me/AJPalestine/8980>>.

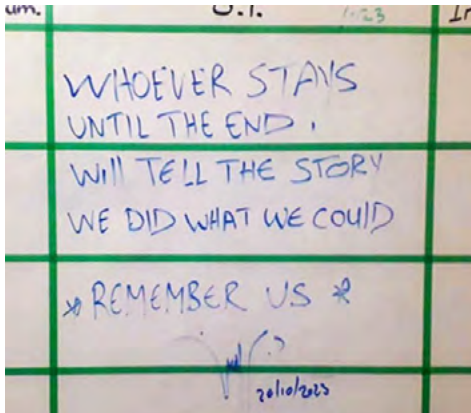
290 MSF, *MSF doctors killed in strike on Al-Awda hospital in northern Gaza*, (21 November 2023), <<https://www.msf.org/msf-doctors-killed-strike-al-awda-hospital-northern-gaza-palestine>>.

291 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #46* (21 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-46>>.

292 MSF, *MSF doctors killed in strike on Al-Awda hospital in northern Gaza* (21 November 2023), <<https://www.msf.org/msf-doctors-killed-strike-al-awda-hospital-northern-gaza-palestine>>.

293 @MSF\_uk, X (6 December 2023), <[https://x.com/MSF\\_uk/status/1732403598007435695?s=20](https://x.com/MSF_uk/status/1732403598007435695?s=20)>.

294 @MSF\_uk, X (6 Dec. 2023), <[https://x.com/MSF\\_uk/status/1732403598007435695?s=20](https://x.com/MSF_uk/status/1732403598007435695?s=20)>.



"We did what we could. Remember us," written by Dr. Mahmoud Abu Nujaila on 20 October 2023. He was killed in the attack on Al-Awda hospital on 21 November 2023, one month after leaving this message. [MSF\_ukX]

On 4 December 2023, Israeli forces struck the gate to Kamal Adwan Hospital, where over 10,000 displaced civilians were sheltering, killing several people and injuring more.<sup>295</sup> Corpses were accumulating in the facility without the ability to be buried due to the intensity of airstrikes.<sup>296</sup> IOF tanks continued to shell the hospital over the next several days, forcing the hospital out of service due to the intensity of the bombardment and a lack of fuel, water, food, and basic supplies.<sup>297</sup> The MOH evacuated most patients and healthcare workers from the hospital by 6 December, leaving behind 20 patients in the facility because they could not be evacuated.<sup>298</sup>

After a pattern of attacks on hospitals throughout the north of Gaza, the Israeli military moved south to Deir al-Balah, closing in on Al-Aqsa Hospital in Gaza's middle area. After displacing people throughout the Gaza Strip to the Deir al-Balah area, the Israeli military continued to target and kill them. The UN Human Rights Office expressed concern that the IOF "have placed civilian lives at serious risk by

295 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #60* (5 December 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-60>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Kamal Adwan Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/79>>.

296 *Ibid.*

297 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #61* (6 December 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-61>>; @MOHMediaGaza, Telegram (5 December 2023), <<https://t.me/MOHMediaGaza/4525>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Kamal Adwan Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/79>>.

298 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #61* (6 December 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-61>>.

ordering residents from various parts of Middle Gaza to relocate to Deir Al Balah — while continuing to conduct airstrikes on the city.”<sup>299</sup> On 10 January 2024, the IOF targeted the hospital with airstrikes, destroying the hospital’s gate, a neighboring building, a PRCS ambulance, and damaging the reception department.<sup>300</sup> The strikes reportedly killed 13 Palestinians.<sup>301</sup> The IOF continued to conduct airstrikes around the hospital.<sup>302</sup> On 31 March, the IOF struck a tent of displaced civilians sheltering in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa Hospital, killing at least four people and injuring 17 others, including eight journalists.<sup>303</sup> On 22 July, the IOF again struck a tent sheltering journalists just outside of the hospital, killing at least two people and injuring several others.<sup>304</sup> On 4 August, five people were killed and 18 were injured when Israeli strikes hit tents of the displaced in the hospital compound.<sup>305</sup> On 5 September, five Palestinians were killed and 15 others were injured, including children, when the IOF struck the tents of displaced civilians sheltering near the hospital’s external clinics, burning and destroying many tents in the area.<sup>306</sup> On 14 October, Israel again targeted the grounds of Al-Aqsa Hospital. The airstrike set the tents of the displaced ablaze. Video footage shows people burning alive, including 19-year-old Sha’ban al-Dalou.<sup>307</sup> Children were escaping the tents on fire.<sup>308</sup> At least four people died and 40 more were wounded, many of whom suffered from extreme burns.<sup>309</sup> According to a UN official, “There seems to be no end to the horrors that Palestinians in Gaza are forced to endure . . . There really is no safe place in Gaza for people to go.”<sup>310</sup>

299 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #89* (4 January 2024), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-89>>.

300 “Al Jazeera camera monitors the moment of the bombing of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir Al-Balah”, *Al Jazeera*, (10 January 2024), <<https://shorturl.at/NZmTd>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #89* (4 January 2024), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-89>>.

301 *Ibid.*

302 “Explosions and violent shelling in the vicinity of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir Al-Balah” *Al Jazeera*, (13 January 2024), <<https://shorturl.at/v2qwj>>.

303 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #149* (3 April 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-149>>.

304 Al Jazeera, *Israeli air attack strikes media tent outside Al-Aqsa Hospital*, (22 July 2024), <<https://www.aljazeera.com/program/newsfeed/2024/7/22/israeli-air-attack-strikes-media-tent-outside-al-aqsa-hospital>>.

305 @MSF, X (5 August 2024), <<https://x.com/MSF/status/1820522623950004409>>.

306 UN OCHA, *Humanitarian Situation Update #214* (6 September 2024), <<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/ocha-sitrep-214-gaza-06sep24/#.>>.

307 “Israeli attack on Gaza hospital tent camp kills four, ignites fire,” *Al Jazeera*, (14 October 2024), <<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/10/14/burned-and-charred-bodies-as-israel-hits-tents-at-central-gaza-hospital>>.

308 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #229* (15 Oct. 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-229-gaza-strip>>.

309 *Ibid.*

310 *Ibid.*



Image of tents of the displaced set ablaze following an Israeli airstrike on Al-Aqsa Hospital grounds. 14 October 2023. [Abdallah F.S. Alattar / Anadolu via Getty Images] (Source: NBC News)

On 27 and 28 December 2023, Israeli strikes targeted areas around Al-Amal Hospital in Khan Younis, where 14,000 displaced Palestinians were sheltering.<sup>311</sup> The repeated strikes killed 41 people and injured dozens of others.<sup>312</sup> The Israeli military repeatedly targeted Al-Amal Hospital and the PCRS headquarters again on 2, 3, and 4 January 2024, killing eighteen people, including a five-day-old baby.<sup>313</sup> From the site of the 2 January attack, Gemma Connell, team leader

311 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #80* (29 December 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-80>>.

312 *Ibid.*; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #79* (28 December 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-79>>; Diakonia, *2023-2024 Hostilities and Escalating Violence in the oPt*, <<https://www.diakonia.se/ihl/news/2023-hostilities-in-gaza-and-israel-factual-account-of-events/>>.

313 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #84* (4 January 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-84>>; UN OCHA, *Gaza Al Amal Hospital*, video, 2 Jan. 2024, <<https://media.un.org/unifeed/en/asset/d316/d3162351>> and <<https://www.unocha.org/media-centre/gaza-al-amal-hospital-2-january-2024>>; PCRS, *PCRS Expresses Deep Concern over the Repeated Targeting of Al-Amal Hospital Compound by Israeli Occupation Forces*, (5 January 2024), <<https://www.palestinerics.org/public/files/image/2024/statements/en%20Al%20Amal%20Hospital%20statement%2004012024.pdf>>; IFRC, *Statement: IFRC condemns the attacks on Al-Amal Hospital and urges increased respect for the protective Red Crescent emblem*, (5 January 2024), <<https://www.ifrc.org/article/statement-ifrc-condemns-attacks-al-amal-hospital-and-urges-increased-respect-protective-red>>.



for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), stressed that no place is safe in Gaza, stating, “No child in the world should be killed, let alone one sheltering under the emblem of a humanitarian organization. This war has to end.”<sup>314</sup>

The IOF targeted Nasser Hospital at the same time as Al-Amal Hospital, deliberately overwhelming and undermining the integrity of the healthcare system for hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians in Khan Younis.<sup>315</sup> Healthcare workers at Nasser Hospital were directly hit by a missile strike on 18 January 2024 in a residential complex housing the Emergency Medical Team (EMT) of the International Rescue Committee and members of the Medical Aid for Palestinians and their families.<sup>316</sup> The Israeli military was aware of the presence of the healthcare workers.<sup>317</sup> Several team members were injured. The team had been providing surgery and other medical treatment supporting the overstretched medical staff in Nasser Hospital. After the strike, the EMT was evacuated and forced to suspend its support to Nasser, further compromising the hospital’s capacity.<sup>318</sup>

314 UN OCHA, *Gaza Al Amal Hospital*, video, 2 January 2024, <<https://media.un.org/unifeed/en/asset/d316/d3162351>>.

315 MSF, *How the Israeli army besieged and attacked Nasser hospital*, (3 April 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/gaza-how-israeli-army-besieged-and-attacked-nasser-hospital>>.

316 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #96* (18 January 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-96>>; MSF, *How the Israeli army besieged and attacked Nasser hospital*, (3 April 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/gaza-how-israeli-army-besieged-and-attacked-nasser-hospital>>.

317 *Ibid.*

318 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #96* (18 January 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-96>>.

## D. Siege

Following a pattern of resource deprivation, intimidation, and direct targeting of hospitals, Israel placed hospitals across the Gaza Strip under siege. Healthcare workers, patients, and displaced civilians were trapped with minimal food, water, and scarce medical supplies as Israeli tanks and airstrikes continued to kill and injure countless Palestinians. This was exacerbated by Israel preventing humanitarian aid from entering the Gaza Strip as a whole, in an effort to threaten the very survival of the Palestinian population.<sup>319</sup> Starving the Palestinian population, killing doctors, patients, and civilians within hospitals, in combination with genocidal statements of intent by Israeli officials, are foundational to Israel's genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza.

After a series of strikes on Al-Shifa Hospital on the night of 10 November 2023, the Israeli forces imposed a siege on the remaining healthcare workers, patients, and displaced civilians in the medical complex. On 11 November 2023, the IOF surrounded the hospital with tanks, preventing ambulances from reaching the hospital and cutting off the hospital's communications with the outside world, putting the lives of healthcare workers and patients, including babies on life support, and displaced people at risk.<sup>320</sup> The last generator at the hospital ran out of fuel, and Dr. Mohammad Abu-Salmiya, the director of Al-Shifa, announced that the supplies of food, water, and electricity were depleted.<sup>321</sup> From 11 November to 13 November, 32 patients died due to the siege and cutting off of electricity in Al-Shifa, including three premature babies in incubators.<sup>322</sup> The head of Al-Shifa's pediatric department told Reuters, "Yesterday, I had 39 babies, and today they have become 36."<sup>323</sup> The surviving premature babies were removed from their

319 UN Palestine, *Israel continues to block aid into northern Gaza; UN sending team to shattered Al-Shifa Hospital*, (2 April 2024), <<https://palestine.un.org/en/264880-israel-continues-block-aid-northern-gaza-un-sending-team-shattered-al-shifa-hospital>>; Brett Murphy, "Blinked Rejected Officials Who Concluded Israel Deliberately Blocked Humanitarian Aid to Gaza", *ProPublica* (24 September 2024), <<https://www.propublica.org/article/gaza-palestine-israel-blocked-humanitarian-aid-blinken>>.

320 WHO, *WHO loses communication with contacts in Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza amid reports of attacks* (12 November 2023), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/who-loses-communication-contacts-al-shifa-hospital-gaza-amid-reports-attacks-enar>>.

321 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #36* (11 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-36>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #37* (12 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-37>>.

322 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #38* (13 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-38>>.

323 Forensic Architecture, *Al Shifa Hospital*, <<https://shifa.forensic-architecture.org/>> (last accessed 30 December 2024).

incubators in the neonatal unit and “wrapped in foil[,] and placed next to hot water in a desperate bid to keep them alive.”<sup>324</sup> The ICU, the maternity ward, and the top floor of the surgery building were hit and damaged.<sup>325</sup>

According to the Ministry of Health (MOH), 40 patients died in Al-Shifa by 14 November, the same day that satellite imagery shows Israeli tanks within 200 meters of the hospital.<sup>326</sup> Israeli snipers shot at people in and near Al-Shifa Hospital, including civilians waving white flags who tried to flee the hospital compound.<sup>327</sup> The World Health Organization called Al-Shifa Hospital “nearly a cemetery,” and a “death zone” as bodies were unable to be buried.<sup>328</sup> Dr. Munir Albursh of Gaza’s health ministry described corpses of dead Palestinians overflowing in the Al-Shifa Hospital courtyard, leading to stray dogs feeding on the decaying, unburied bodies.<sup>329</sup> The hospital reported preparations for a mass grave within the compound to bury 180 bodies of patients who could not be evacuated due to the siege.<sup>330</sup> Al-Shifa Hospital, forced out of service by the siege, was no longer able to care for the living or the dead.

324 Diakonia, *2023-2024 Hostilities and Escalating Violence in the oPt*, <<https://www.diakonia.se/ihl/news/2023-hostilities-in-gaza-and-israel-factual-account-of-events/>>.

325 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #38* (13 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-38>>.

326 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #39* (14 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-39>>; Forensic Architecture, *Al Shifa Hospital*, <<https://shifa.forensic-architecture.org/>> (last accessed 30 December 2024); UN OCHA, *Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #41* (17 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-41>>.

327 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #38* (13 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-38>>; Forensic Architecture, *Destruction of Medical Infrastructure in Gaza*, <<https://forensic-architecture.org/investigation/destruction-of-medical-infrastructure-in-gaza>>.

328 WHO, *WHO leads very high-risk joint humanitarian mission to Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza*, (18 November 2023), <<https://www.who.int/news/item/18-11-2023-who-leads-very-high-risk-joint-humanitarian-mission-to-al-shifa-hospital-in-gaza>>; Oliver Slow, *Al-Shifa: WHO says Gaza hospital unable to bury dead bodies*, BBC (13 November 2023), <<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67410093>>; Diakonia, *2023-2024 Hostilities and Escalating Violence in the oPt* (12 January 2024), <<https://www.diakonia.se/ihl/news/2023-hostilities-in-gaza-and-israel-factual-account-of-events/>>.

329 Forensic Architecture, *Al Shifa Hospital*, <<https://shifa.forensic-architecture.org/>> (last accessed 30 December 2024); @MiddleEastEye, X (13 November 2023), <<https://twitter.com/MiddleEastEye/status/1724127658517119236>> (“‘Stray dogs found the dead bodies inside, and started eating them while we were watching.’ Dr Munir Albursh, the director-general of the Ministry of Health in Gaza, told Al Jazeera over the phone that stray dogs entered al-Shifa hospital and started eating the dead bodies inside.”); Diakonia, *2023-2024 Hostilities and Escalating Violence in the oPt* (12 January 2024), <<https://www.diakonia.se/ihl/news/2023-hostilities-in-gaza-and-israel-factual-account-of-events/>>.

330 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #39* (14 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-39>>; Diakonia, *2023-2024 Hostilities and Escalating Violence in the oPt* (12 January 2024), <<https://www.diakonia.se/ihl/news/2023-hostilities-in-gaza-and-israel-factual-account-of-events/>>.

Shortly after besieging Al-Shifa Hospital, the Israeli military encircled the Indonesian Hospital with tanks, placing the facility under siege by the evening of 20 November 2023.<sup>331</sup> Snipers were stationed outside of the hospital, preventing any movement in or out of the hospital and targeting those inside the facility.<sup>332</sup> The IOF targeted the second floor of the hospital with artillery munitions, killing 12 people, including patients, while dozens more were critically injured.<sup>333</sup> Within three hours of the tanks approaching the hospital, Israeli soldiers raided the Halab School directly adjacent to the hospital where civilians were also taking shelter, with footage showing Israeli forces shooting at the walls of the school.<sup>334</sup> On 21 November 2023, humanitarian organizations managed to evacuate 500 patients and staff south to a hospital in Khan Younis.<sup>335</sup> As thousands of patients and displaced civilians trapped within the hospital waited for evacuation, Israeli troops and tanks continued to surround and repeatedly strike the facility, hitting the surgery department and causing structural damage.<sup>336</sup> Bodies were piling up outside of the hospital morgue, unable to be buried while healthcare workers were trapped in the hospital under siege and threat of sniper fire.<sup>337</sup> The MOH reported that there were 60 unburied corpses lying near the hospital.<sup>338</sup> On 23 November, the IOF again struck the Indonesian Hospital, destroying its generator, while hundreds of patients and healthcare workers remained inside.<sup>339</sup>

331 Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Indonesian Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/81>>; WHO, *WHO appalled by latest attack on Indonesian Hospital in Gaza* (20 November 2023), <<https://www.emro.who.int/media/news/who-appalled-by-latest-attack-on-indonesian-hospital-in-gaza.html>>.

332 *Ibid.*

333 WHO, *WHO appalled by latest attack on Indonesian Hospital in Gaza* (20 November 2023), <<https://www.emro.who.int/media/news/who-appalled-by-latest-attack-on-indonesian-hospital-in-gaza.html>>; Forensic Architecture, *The targeting of the Indonesian Hospital*, <https://indonesian.alhaq.org/>; Diakonia, *2023-2024 Hostilities and Escalating Violence in the oPt* (12 January 2024), <<https://www.diakonia.se/ihl/news/2023-hostilities-in-gaza-and-israel-factual-account-of-events/>>.

334 Forensic Architecture, *The targeting of the Indonesian Hospital*, <<https://indonesian.alhaq.org/>>.

335 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #46* (21 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-46>>.

336 *Ibid.*; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #47* (22 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-47>>.

337 Forensic Architecture, *The targeting of the Indonesian Hospital*, <<https://indonesian.alhaq.org/>>; @AJPalestine, Telegram (23 Nov. 2023), <<https://t.me/AJPalestine/12395>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #47* (22 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-47>>.

338 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #47* (22 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-47>>.

339 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #48* (23 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-48>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #49* (24 November 2023), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-49>>.

On 8 December 2023, the Israeli military surrounded Kamal Adwan Hospital. Israeli snipers were positioned on buildings around the hospital and fired in the direction of the hospital courtyard and patients' rooms.<sup>340</sup> The MOH stated that healthcare workers, wounded patients, and approximately 3,000 displaced civilians trapped inside the hospital were without water, food, or access to treatment.<sup>341</sup> As the siege continued, the IOF bombed the maternity ward, killing two mothers and injuring several others on 11 December.<sup>342</sup>

Al-Aqsa Hospital, in Gaza's middle area, was surrounded by IOF forces and subjected to evacuation orders on 25 August 2024.<sup>343</sup> The IOF declared the vicinity of the hospital a military operation zone, compelling hundreds of patients to flee the hospital.<sup>344</sup> Only 100 out of around 650 total patients remained in the hospital, including eight patients in intensive care and eight premature babies.<sup>345</sup> The hospital serves approximately 480 dialysis patients, three times beyond the hospital's normal capacity. Bombardment intensified around the hospital, placing dialysis patients, intensive care patients, and newborns at risk.<sup>346</sup>

The Israeli military besieged the Al-Amal and Nasser hospitals in the south of Gaza in January 2024. The IOF surrounded the ambulance headquarters at Al-Amal Hospital on 22 January, preventing any ambulance from reaching the

340 Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Kamal Adwan Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/79>>; @MOHMediaGaza, Telegram (8 December 2023), <<https://t.me/MOHMediaGaza/4539>>.

341 Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Kamal Adwan Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/79>>; @MOHMediaGaza, Telegram (8 December 2023), <<https://t.me/MOHMediaGaza/4539>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #66* (11 December 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-66>>; Diakonia, *2023-2024 Hostilities and Escalating Violence in the oPt* (12 January 2024), <<https://www.diakonia.se/ihl/news/2023-hostilities-in-gaza-and-israel-factual-account-of-events/>>.

342 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #66* (11 December 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-66>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Kamal Adwan Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/79>>; Diakonia, *2023-2024 Hostilities and Escalating Violence in the oPt* (12 January 2024), <<https://www.diakonia.se/ihl/news/2023-hostilities-in-gaza-and-israel-factual-account-of-events/>>.

343 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #209* (26 August 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-209-gaza-strip>>.

344 @MOHMediaGaza, Telegram (21 August 2024), <<https://t.me/MOHMediaGaza/5702>>.

345 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #209* (26 August 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-209-gaza-strip>>; Yasser Al-Banna, "Serving one million Palestinians . . . Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital threatened with closure," *Al Jazeera* (27 August 2024), <<https://shorturl.at/5uwYB>>.

346 *Ibid.*; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #211* (30 August 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-211-gaza-strip>>.

facility.<sup>347</sup> Israeli tanks were stationed near the hospital as the military targeted the hospital's perimeter with airstrikes.<sup>348</sup> Access to the hospital was cut off, trapping approximately 13,000 displaced people in the facility, and leaving people in the vicinity of Al-Mawasi with no alternatives for medical care.<sup>349</sup> The PRCS announced that the IOF was using drones to target anyone moving around Al-Amal Hospital, killing at least one person in front of the hospital's entrance on 23 January.<sup>350</sup> On 24 January, the IOF struck the entrance to the PCRF headquarters, killing at least three Palestinians.<sup>351</sup> As the siege continued, the hospital ran out of oxygen supply, forcing the surgical ward to cease operations.<sup>352</sup> The PRCS was forced to ask displaced civilians in the hospital to donate blood because staff were unable to access blood banks to treat the wounded.<sup>353</sup> Israeli forces continued to fire at the besieged hospital, shooting and killing a displaced civilian in the hospital yard on 27 January, and killing displaced civilians as they tried to retrieve

347 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #99* (22 January 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-99>>.

348 *Ibid.*; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Amal Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/76>>; PRCS, Facebook (21 January 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid0B2LaRYxBqS851L5ecmronNQiWDoMk1nz79355yDSMy68McAEVuDZVcgjsMotdZakl>>; PRCS, Facebook (22 January 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid02uNagBJA4XQuYu2mfZqqSPzhNMtiyA6s4Guo3jLs2p29PLGDEqM8f6VLCn9gesN3l>>.

349 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #99* (22 Jan. 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-99>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #100* (23 January 2024), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-100>>.

350 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #101* (24 January 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-101>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #102* (25 January 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-102>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Amal Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/76>>; PRCS, Facebook (22 January 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid0ecV6iGy89MSxnWxtv65q48XADm6ycyMP7H1zirazmoWwYQwccMPWshZgWMRGqDAnl>>; PRCS, Facebook (23 January 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid0x1odA6b8JEXi2oXulF6pWgpEYrc5warYcL4jYyCHnaqCjMHvzWafzGGQGaCkKbZ9l>>; PRCS, Facebook (23 January 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid02aVe9capXGfsaq9VTMDW5hvMZHyW94ybAoKV46FS38eSmlDjC6RqpCQGNmx4Mmel>>.

351 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #102* (25 January 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-102>>.

352 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #105* (29 January 2024), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-105>>; PRCS, Facebook (28 January 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid0QwHsy4guZQnapRNUvwdx5Z2pzh2ygZroeaNEJtSVGHuVyyqtmB9UK5XKmHaZTzYxl>>; PRCS, Facebook (28 January 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid0YswW59oPG5N5SRBX7KkWsk1TRQi58STMVXmKjWJKFw8HB9Hn4h1Q6FXcbp4ZuDPXl>>.

353 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #102* (25 January 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-102>>.

the body of a Palestinian killed in front of the hospital on 29 January.<sup>354</sup>

By 22 January 2024, Nasser Hospital was surrounded. Over 50 percent of staff and patients were compelled to flee the hospital, with only 400 out of 750 patients remaining.<sup>355</sup> Snipers were stationed around the complex amid heavy bombing in the area, resulting in many civilians killed or injured when trying to flee the hospital.<sup>356</sup> Forty people were buried in a mass grave in the hospital's compound.<sup>357</sup> On 23 January, Nasser and Al-Amal hospitals were under evacuation orders, but no one was able to enter or exit safely amid the intensifying bombardment. The hospital faced paralysis amid a severe shortage of medical supplies, and people were forced to dig mass graves to bury the dead.<sup>358</sup>

On 26 January, services collapsed at Nasser Hospital. The largest remaining health facility in the Gaza Strip could no longer provide vital medical treatment. Wounded patients were forced to wait to die amid a shortage of surgeons and medical supplies.<sup>359</sup> An MSF staff member trapped in the hospital discussed the severe strain on the hospital, stating:

I went to the surgical room to receive a patient in our department and asked the few remaining staff if they could supply an abdominal gauze. They said that they didn't have any to spare and that the ones they had were already being used on several patients. They use

354 PRCS, Facebook, video (29 January 2024), <<https://shorturl.at/Hlv43>>; PRCS, Facebook (27 Jan. 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid02QcQ1GnDjWzJ3ZAbiu1DjgUZLLB85hNRyT6pGpL9DeCTePFoCeVUc5LeGKjBUD4Zyl>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #103* (26 January 2024), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-103>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #104* (28 January 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-104>>; PRCS, Facebook (29 January 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid0QhXmjXbJasZ2J4ZZHZvHQ3JxTHnHPt3V3dpMPpmMzMLHsZxj4qTefgG8HUi5Tpxl>>.

355 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #99* (22 January 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-99>>.

356 MSF, *How the Israeli army besieged and attacked Nasser hospital* (3 April 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/gaza-how-israeli-army-besieged-and-attacked-nasser-hospital>>.

357 @MOHMediaGaza, Telegram (22 January 2024), <<https://t.me/MOHMediaGaza/4818>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Nasser Medical Complex*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/73>>.

358 @MOHMediaGaza, Telegram (25 January 2024), <<https://t.me/MOHMediaGaza/4846>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #101* (24 January 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-101>>.

359 MSF, *Services collapse at Nasser Hospital, leaving Palestinians with few options for care* (26 January 2024), <<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/nasser-hospital-collapses-cutting-access-health-care-southern-gaza>>.

it once, then squeeze out the blood, wash it, sterilise it and reuse it with another patient. This is the situation in Nasser's operating theatre, can you imagine?<sup>360</sup>

On the tenth day of siege, the MOH announced that food had run out at the hospital.<sup>361</sup> Snipers continued to target the hospital, shooting a nurse with a live bullet in the chest.<sup>362</sup> The ICRC stated that if Nasser Hospital ceases to function, "the world will bear witness to untold thousands of preventable deaths given the size of the population, the current extreme living conditions, a collapsing health system, and the intensity of the fighting."<sup>363</sup>



A man carrying his dead child's body after the bombing of a residential area near a school sheltering a large number of displaced Palestinians, Khan Yunis, south of Gaza Strip, 3 December 2023. [Mohammed Zaanoun]

360 MSF, *How the Israeli army besieged and attacked Nasser hospital* (3 April 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/gaza-how-israeli-army-besieged-and-attacked-nasser-hospital>>.

361 @MOHMediaGaza, Telegram (31 January 2024), <<https://t.me/MOHMediaGaza/4902>>; "Intensive aerial bombardment on different areas of Gaza, the toll of martyrs close to 27 thousand", *Al Jazeera* (31 January 2024), <<https://tinyurl.com/4xzv5vf8>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Nasser Medical Complex*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/73>>; MSF, *How the Israeli army besieged and attacked Nasser hospital* (3 April 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/gaza-how-israeli-army-besieged-and-attacked-nasser-hospital>>; @nytimes, TikTok (29 January 2024), <<https://www.tiktok.com/@nytimes/video/7329617681575922986>> (interview by Dr. Ahmed Moghrabi given to the New York Times, describing the siege at Nasser Hospital).

362 MSF, *How the Israeli army besieged and attacked Nasser hospital* (3 April 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/gaza-how-israeli-army-besieged-and-attacked-nasser-hospital>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #117* (13 February 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-117>>.

363 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #102* (25 January 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-102>>.



## E. Invasion and destruction

After systematic deprivation, intimidation, direct targeting, and siege, the IOF invaded hospitals across the Gaza Strip, destroying the facilities and forcing the evacuation of thousands of patients, displaced civilians, and healthcare workers. The IOF demonstrated a pattern of issuing evacuation orders for hospitals and their surroundings before invading the facilities. These evacuation orders are orders of forced mass displacement that violate the protected status of hospitals. The orders are also impossible to carry out safely as they often give only a few hours to evacuate hundreds of patients and thousands of displaced civilians sheltering in the facilities. In most cases, evacuations are not possible without endangering patients' lives. The IOF, after issuing the orders, does not assist in the safe evacuation of patients and civilians, and frequently obstructs ambulances from evacuating patients.<sup>364</sup> In fact, as healthcare workers, patients, and displaced civilians attempt to follow evacuation orders, the IOF has shot, detained, and abused those fleeing on the designated evacuation routes.<sup>365</sup>

Al-Shifa Hospital was the first to be invaded and occupied by Israeli soldiers. The Israeli military invaded and occupied the besieged hospital from 15 to 24 November 2023. For ten days, Israeli soldiers controlled and destroyed Al-Shifa Hospital, rendering the largest medical complex in the Gaza Strip dysfunctional in a pattern that continues to be imposed upon hospitals across the Gaza Strip.

<sup>364</sup> UN HRC, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, A/79/232* (11 September 2024), para. 19.

<sup>365</sup> November 2023, Israeli forces shot at civilians waving white flags as they tried to flee Al-Shifa compound, see Forensic Architecture, *Destruction of Medical Infrastructure in Gaza*, <<https://forensic-architecture.org/investigation/destruction-of-medical-infrastructure-in-gaza>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #38* (13 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-38>>; Dr. Iyad Rantisi and other doctors followed orders to leave Kamal Adwan Hospital and go south along a designated route, and were arrested at a military checkpoint. Dr. Rantisi was killed a few days later. UN HRC, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, A/79/232* (11 September 2024), para. 71; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Abduction of Dr. Iyad al-Rantisi*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/1945>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Iyad Mohammed al-Rantisi*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/index.php/en/node/1297>>; Two PCRS volunteers were detained on the designated safe route for the evacuation of civilians from Al-Amal Hospital on 6 February 2024, UN OCHA, *Flash Update #111* (5 February 2024), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-111enarhe>>; PRCS, Facebook (6 February 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid037PtUpZnA1D4pRR5KQHPVnYVdfnm3HQYRk2V7dMHKnAyNBcXUiAP1gu8q65vVMI>>.

At 3:00 AM on 15 November 2023, images show Israeli tanks stationed in front of the entrance of Al-Shifa.<sup>366</sup> The Israeli military began its invasion of the medical complex, deploying soldiers throughout the grounds, raiding several buildings, destroying equipment, and blowing up internal doors, while forcefully gathering healthcare workers and patients in the courtyard for interrogation.<sup>367</sup> Several people were killed throughout the raid.<sup>368</sup> About 5,000 healthcare workers, patients, and displaced civilians were arrested from Al-Shifa.<sup>369</sup> The IOF bulldozed the northern and southern walls of the hospital, and razed all roads within a kilometer of the hospital, including Al-Wahda Street, cutting off vital access to the hospital.<sup>370</sup> Soldiers exhumed bodies from a mass grave and stole bodies from the morgue of the hospital.<sup>371</sup>

On 18 November 2023, the Israeli military ordered the expulsion of 2,500 displaced civilians, as well as patients and healthcare workers from Al-Shifa Hospital.<sup>372</sup> Only 25 healthcare workers and 291 patients remained, including 32 babies in critical condition, two people in intensive care without ventilation, and 22 dialysis patients.<sup>373</sup> A humanitarian team led by the World Health Organization was able to lead a high-risk mission into Al-Shifa on 18 November to assess the critical damage and medical needs. However, the team was only able to spend one hour in the hospital, which they described as a “death zone,” and the situation as “desperate,” “deplorable,” and “unbearable and unjustifiable.”<sup>374</sup> Signs of shelling and gunfire in the hospital were evident, and the team saw a mass grave at the

366 Forensic Architecture, *Al Shifa Hospital*, <<https://shifa.forensic-architecture.org/>> (last accessed 30 December 2024).

367 Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Shifa Medical Complex*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/94>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #40* (15 November 2023), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-40-enarhe>>.

368 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #42* (17 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-42>>.

369 Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Shifa Medical Complex*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/94>>.

370 *Ibid.*

371 *Ibid.*; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #41* (16 November 2023), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-41>>.

372 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #43* (18 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-43>>.

373 *Ibid.*

374 @DrTedros, X (18 November 2023), <<https://x.com/DrTedros/status/1725970286237843536>>; WHO, *WHO leads very high-risk joint humanitarian mission to Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza* (18 November 2023), <<https://www.emro.who.int/media/news/who-leads-very-high-risk-joint-humanitarian-mission-to-al-shifa-hospital-in-gaza.html?format=html>>.

entrance of the hospital where 80 people were buried.<sup>375</sup> The team reported that the lack of “clean water, fuel, medicines, food and other essential aid over the last six weeks have caused Al-Shifa Hospital — once the largest, most advanced, and best equipped referral hospital in Gaza — to essentially stop functioning as a medical facility.”<sup>376</sup> Medical and solid waste lined the corridors and hospital grounds, and patients and healthcare workers, terrified for their safety and health, pleaded with the team for safe evacuation.<sup>377</sup> On 19 November, 31 out of 36 premature babies, along with 16 staff and family members, were evacuated south to a hospital in Rafah.<sup>378</sup> The remaining five babies were killed in the preceding days of siege and invasion due to the Israeli-imposed electricity blackout, lack of fuel, and violence perpetrated against the hospital and those within.<sup>379</sup>

On 23 November 2023, Israeli forces arrested Dr. Abu Salmiya, the director of Al-Shifa Hospital, at a checkpoint splitting north and south Gaza, along with other members of his medical crew during their forced evacuation south from Al-Shifa on Salah al-Din Street.<sup>380</sup> This followed the arrest of three PRCS paramedics at the same checkpoint the day before while being evacuated in a convoy from Al-Shifa.<sup>381</sup> Dr. Abu-Salmiya was held incommunicado for several months, during which reports surfaced that the IOF was torturing him because he refused to testify that militants were using Al-Shifa Hospital.<sup>382</sup> Dr. Abu Salmiya was released in July 2024, after seven months of Israeli detention without charge. Dr. Abu Salmiya testified that he was tortured using dogs, batons, food and

375 *Ibid.*

376 *Ibid.*

377 *Ibid.*

378 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #44* (19 November 2023), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-44>>.

379 Diakonia, *2023-2024 Hostilities and Escalating Violence in the oPt*, <<https://www.diakonia.se/ihl/news/2023-hostilities-in-gaza-and-israel-factual-account-of-events/>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #44* (19 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-44>>.

380 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #48* (23 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-48>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Shifa Medical Complex*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/94>>.

381 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #48* (23 November 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-48>>.

382 @QudsNen, X (10 February 2024), <<https://x.com/QudsNen/status/1756247362857566487>>; Jessica Smith-Amara, *Medical voices against Dr. Muhammad Abu Salmiya's detention*, 403 *The Lancet* (25 May 2024), p. 2285-2286 <[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)00768-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)00768-2/fulltext)>.

medicine deprivation, as well as physical and psychological humiliation.<sup>383</sup> He described conditions in prison as “tragic, unprecedented in Palestinian history, with severe food shortages and physical humiliation,” and stressed that “the Israeli occupation arrests everyone, and medical staff have died in Israeli prisons due to torture and a lack of medical care.”<sup>384</sup>

On 24 November 2023, the IOF withdrew from Al-Shifa Hospital after arresting and forcibly expelling thousands of people and rendering the facility inoperable.<sup>385</sup> 19 healthcare workers and 259 patients unable to be evacuated from the hospital remained.<sup>386</sup>

Al-Shifa slowly restored minimal health services over the next several months. By February 2024, Al-Shifa was partially back in operation.<sup>387</sup> But one month later, on 18 March 2024, the IOF once again invaded Al-Shifa. The Israeli military besieged and invaded the medical complex after distributing leaflets ordering the expulsion of civilians around the hospital toward the Al-Mawasi area in the south.<sup>388</sup> Israeli forces took control of buildings within and around the hospital, forced civilians to relocate between buildings at gunpoint, and used the area around the hospital’s outpatient clinic to interrogate and detain healthcare workers.<sup>389</sup> At least 21 patients were killed from lack of care because Israeli soldiers prevented medical

383 Jason Burke, “Freed Gaza hospital head accuses Israel of repeated torture”, *The Guardian* (1 July 2024), <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jul/01/freed-gaza-hospital-head-accuses-israel-of-repeated-torture>>.

384 Mohammad Sio, “Israeli army releases director of Gaza’s Al-Shifa Hospital after 7-month detention”, *Anadolu Ajansi* (1 July 2024), <<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/israeli-army-releases-director-of-gazas-al-shifa-hospital-after-7-month-detention/3262595>>.

385 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #49* (24 November 2023), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-49>>.

386 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #46* (21 November 2023), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-46>>.

387 Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Shifa Medical Complex*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/94>>.

388 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #141* (18 March 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-141>>; UNOCHA, *Flash Update #142* (19 March 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-142>>.

389 *Ibid.*; WHO, *Six months of war leave Al-Shifa hospital in ruins, WHO mission reports* (6 April 2024), <<https://www.who.int/news/item/06-04-2024-six-months-of-war-leave-al-shifa-hospital-in-ruins--who-mission-reports#:~:text=Like%20the%20majority%20of%20the,unusable%20or%20reduced%20to%20ashes>>.

personnel from carrying out their duties.<sup>390</sup> Footage from the invasion shows dozens of Palestinians detained *en masse* in the hospital courtyard, blindfolded, zip-tied, and dressed in white jumpsuits.<sup>391</sup> Israeli forces placed the hospital under siege during the month of Ramadan, when starvation and famine were already taking root in the north of the Gaza Strip, subjecting those trapped in the hospital to a severe lack of food, water, hygiene, and sanitation, while preventing humanitarian organizations from reaching the hospital.<sup>392</sup> In one instance, healthcare workers and patients had to share one bottle of water between 15 people.<sup>393</sup>

Israel reportedly killed more than 400 people during the two-week siege and invasion of Al-Shifa, including five doctors in and around the hospital, and detained several hundred Palestinians.<sup>394</sup> Israeli soldiers also killed hundreds of Palestinians sheltering in residences around Al-Shifa Hospital, including Dr. Ahmad al-Maqadmeh and his mother, Dr. Yusra al-Maqadmeh, who were executed near the hospital.<sup>395</sup> Patients who survived were evacuated to Al-Ahli Hospital on 1 April 2024, where some required limb amputations and whose wounds were infected with maggots as a direct result of the Israeli military preventing proper medical care to patients during the siege.<sup>396</sup>

390 WHO, *Six months of war leave Al-Shifa hospital in ruins*, WHO mission reports, (6 Apr. 2024), <<https://www.who.int/news/item/06-04-2024-six-months-of-war-leave-al-shifa-hospital-in-ruins--who-mission-reports#>>; MAP, *The destruction of Shifa Hospital is latest evidence of Israel's systematic dismantling of Gaza's health system* (2 April 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/destruction-shifa-hospital-latest-evidence-israels-systematic-dismantling-gazas-health-system>>.

391 Forensic Architecture, *Al Shifa Hospital*, <<https://shifa.forensic-architecture.org/>> (last accessed 30 December 2024).

392 @WHOoPt, X (4 April 2024), <<https://x.com/WHOoPt/status/1775913716715774101>>, (Video testimonies describe the conditions in Al-Shifa Hospital: "There were no medications, no food, and no water," and "6 WHO missions were denied, delayed, or impeded.")

393 WHO, *Gaza Al-Shifa hospital destroyed*, (2 April 2024), <<https://www.unognewsroom.org/story/en/2123/gaza-al-shifa-hospital-destroyed-who-02-april-2024#>>>.

394 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #149* (3 April 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-149>>; UN OHCHR, *Israel/Gaza: UN experts deplore attacks on Al-Shifa Hospital, urge States to stop the massacre*, (3 April 2024), <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/04/israelgaza-un-experts-deplore-attacks-al-shifa-hospital-urge-states>>.

395 MAP, *The destruction of Shifa Hospital is latest evidence of Israel's systematic dismantling of Gaza's health system*, (2 April 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/destruction-shifa-hospital-latest-evidence-israels-systematic-dismantling-gazas-health-system>>.

396 *Ibid.*



Three mass graves filled with at least 79 bodies were discovered in the courtyard of Al-Shifa following the Israeli withdrawal.<sup>397</sup> Several bodies were badly disfigured and others were zip-tied, suggesting that they were executed while restrained.<sup>398</sup> Furthermore, existing makeshift burial sites made prior to the previous Israeli invasion of the hospital in November 2023 were desecrated, with human remains visible and exposed above the soil.<sup>399</sup> A humanitarian team led by WHO in the aftermath of the invasion reported a pungent smell of decomposing bodies engulfing the hospital compound.<sup>400</sup>

A concrete shell remained where the largest hospital in the Gaza Strip, older than Israel itself, once stood. Al-Shifa was the only teaching hospital in Gaza, with a 750-bed capacity, over 26 operating theaters, 32 intensive care rooms, a central laboratory, and a 62-bed emergency center, providing services to 250,000 people annually, including some 17,000 surgical operations.<sup>401</sup> The Israeli invasion and occupation of Al-Shifa Hospital completely destroyed the hospital, reducing buildings and medical equipment to ashes.<sup>402</sup> The hospital's oxygen plant was destroyed, leaving Kamal Adwan Hospital as the only source of medical oxygen in the north of Gaza.<sup>403</sup> The emergency department, surgical, and maternity ward

397 MAP, *A month after mass graves discovered at Gaza hospitals, international investigations and accountability are essential*, (10 June 2024), <<https://www.map.org.uk/news/archive/post/1593-a-month-after-mass-graves-discovered-at-gaza-hospitals-international-investigations-and-accountability-are-essential>>; Forensic Architecture, *Al Shifa Hospital*, <<https://shifa.forensic-architecture.org/>> (last accessed 30 December 2024); Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Shifa Medical Complex*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/94>>; UN News, *Mass graves in Gaza show victims' hands were tied, says UN rights office* (23 April 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1148876>>.

398 *Ibid.*; MAP, *A month after mass graves discovered at Gaza hospitals, international investigations and accountability are essential*, (10 June 2024), <<https://www.map.org.uk/news/archive/post/1593-a-month-after-mass-graves-discovered-at-gaza-hospitals-international-investigations-and-accountability-are-essential>>.

399 Forensic Architecture, *Al Shifa Hospital*, <<https://shifa.forensic-architecture.org/>> (last accessed 30 December 2024); @hamza\_z\_q, Instagram (31 March 2024) <<https://www.instagram.com/p/C5NEbhNCHE/>> (video showing the extent of the destruction of Al-Shifa hospital); @anasjamal44, Instagram (8 April 2024), <<https://www.instagram.com/p/C5fsUXjNCv-/>> (video showing the bodies of the dead following Israeli invasion of Al-Shifa Hospital).

400 WHO, *Six months of war leave Al-Shifa hospital in ruins, WHO mission reports* (6 April 2024), <[https://www.who.int/news/item/06-04-2024-six-months-of-war-leave-al-shifa-hospital-in-ruins--who-mission-reports#:>](https://www.who.int/news/item/06-04-2024-six-months-of-war-leave-al-shifa-hospital-in-ruins--who-mission-reports#:).

401 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #149* (3 April 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-149>>.

402 UN News, *Gaza: 'Systematic dismantling of healthcare must end' says WHO* (6 April 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1148316>>.

403 WHO, *Six months of war leave Al-Shifa hospital in ruins, WHO mission reports*, (6 April 2024), <[https://www.who.int/news/item/06-04-2024-six-months-of-war-leave-al-shifa-hospital-in-ruins--who-mission-reports#:>](https://www.who.int/news/item/06-04-2024-six-months-of-war-leave-al-shifa-hospital-in-ruins--who-mission-reports#:).

buildings were extensively damaged from explosives and fire.<sup>404</sup> At least 115 beds in the emergency department were burnt and 14 incubators in the NICU were destroyed.<sup>405</sup> The complete destruction of Al-Shifa Hospital ripped “the heart out of the health system in Gaza,” in an act of genocide to erase the survival of the Palestinian people as a whole.<sup>406</sup>



The aftermath of the IOF's destruction of Al-Shifa Hospital in March 2024. [Osama Rabi/ Anadolu] (Source: Al-Jazeera)

The invasion of hospitals across the Gaza Strip continued, mirroring the same tactics of destruction as was used against Al-Shifa. After repeatedly striking the besieged Indonesian Hospital, Israeli troops raided the medical facility on the night of 23 November 2023 into the 24 of November, killing at least one woman and detaining three patients.<sup>407</sup> The hospital was placed under a blackout, with limited information emerging from this period. Testimony from the raid recounts how Israeli soldiers sent quadcopter drones into the hospital, gathered everyone on the

404 UN News, *Gaza: 'Systematic dismantling of healthcare must end' says WHO* (6 April 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1148316>>.

405 *Ibid.*

406 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #149* (3 April 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-149>>; @UNGeneva, X (2 April 2024), <<https://x.com/UNGeneva/status/1775176522673824180>> (“What is going on is a moral stain on humanity.”)

407 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #49* (24 November 2023), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-49>>.

ground floor, and used dogs to attack healthcare workers, patients, and civilians, before forcibly expelling everyone inside the hospital, including the sick and injured, and commanding them to move south down the Netzarim corridor.<sup>408</sup> During these expulsions, testimonies recount how healthcare workers were specifically targeted and detained, and at least four patients died during the forced evacuation south.<sup>409</sup>

Testimony from Dr. Mohammad Shaban details how, following attacks on the hospital that killed several patients, and the hospital administration building targeted with machine guns and quadcopter drones:

[W]e were finally forced to leave all the floors of the hospital and go down to the ground floor — to the reception area and at the western gate — after we transferred the sick, injured, and displaced over the course of three days — we were unable to evacuate all the patients — we had 100 patients left with a nursing staff of five and three doctors, they were surrounded [by the IOF].

Dr. Shaban also stated that, on the 23 of November:

[T]he occupation army entered the hospital, and while they were inside they took some [people] into detention, and some were tortured inside the hospital . . . they [IOF] stormed the hospital at three in the morning, and stayed for about six hours after interrogating the medical staff, and during the invasion three wounded patients were martyred due to random shooting before the occupation army entered . . .<sup>410</sup>

After the military withdrew, it was clear that soldiers destroyed the main entrance of the hospital and caused significant damage to the walls and yard. Windows were shattered and the facade was riddled with bullet holes. The IOF destroyed ambulances and other civil defense vehicles. The damage from the Israeli raid rendered the hospital non-functional, and on 24 November 2023, a number of remaining patients were transferred to Nasser Hospital in the south.<sup>411</sup>

408 Testimony of Dr. Mohammad Shaban, 5 February 2024, Arabic transcription on file with Al-Haq (phone interview).

409 Testimony of Dr. Mohammad Shaban, 5 February 2024, Arabic transcription on file with Al-Haq (video interview).

410 *Ibid.*

411 Nasser Medical Complex, Facebook (24 November 2023), <<https://tinyurl.com/429k87zp>>.



Once again, after the Indonesian Hospital spent several months trying to recover and resume operations, the IOF closed in. Israeli forces continued bombing the vicinity and struck the hospital several times, killing a number of people over the course of several months, including children.<sup>412</sup> On 31 May 2024, the IOF set fire to the second and third floors of the hospital.<sup>413</sup> Despite the attacks on the hospital, healthcare workers continued to provide emergency services. By October 2024, the situation grew increasingly dire in the north of the Gaza Strip. The Indonesian Hospital was once again placed under an Israeli expulsion order, with images surfacing of hundreds of people being lined up outside of the hospital by Israeli forces on 19 October 2024.<sup>414</sup>

On 12 December 2023, Israeli forces stormed Kamal Adwan Hospital, detained the director, Dr. Ahmad al-Kahlout, along with over 70 healthcare workers to an unknown location.<sup>415</sup> The remaining staff were ordered to collect all patients and caretakers into one building without electricity, water, or food, and to evacuate the remaining buildings.<sup>416</sup> On 13 December, Israeli forces released five doctors and all female staff that they detained the previous day.<sup>417</sup> Reports from those released recount that the IOF interrogated, beat, and exposed the healthcare workers to harsh weather before releasing them back to the hospital.<sup>418</sup> Soldiers shot and injured five of the

412 Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Indonesian Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/81>>; WHO, *oPt Emergency Situation Update*, (6 June 2024), <[https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep\\_-\\_issue\\_33.pdf?ua=1](https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep_-_issue_33.pdf?ua=1)> (Indonesian Hospital partially resumed operations, providing basic emergency services, following Israeli military withdrawal from the vicinity on 31 May); UN OCHA, *Flash Update #77* (26 December 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-77>> (Israeli airstrike on Indonesian Hospital on 25 December 2023 killed 3 people and injured others); UN OCHA, *Flash Update #157* (24 April 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-157>> (On 23 April 2024, the IOF once again issued evacuation orders for the Indonesian Hospital); UN OCHA, *Flash Update #159* (29 April 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-159>> (On 25 April 2024, Israeli airstrikes around the Indonesian Hospital killed three children and injured at least two others).

413 Forensic Architecture, *The targeting of the Indonesian Hospital*, <<https://indonesian.alhaq.org/>>.

414 @hossam\_shbat, Instagram (19 October 2024), <[https://www.instagram.com/reel/DBT1QW\\_x197?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/reel/DBT1QW_x197?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)> (video shows IOF lining up Palestinians outside of Indonesian Hospital, surrounded by tanks).

415 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #67* (12 December 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-67>>; Visualizing Palestine, *Disappeared Doctors: Israel's systematic torture of Palestinians health workers*, (October 2024), <<https://visualizingpalestine.org/visual/disappeared-doctors/>>.

416 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #67* (12 December 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-67>>.

417 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #68* (13 December 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-68>>.

418 *Ibid.*



released detainees as they were on their way back to the hospital.<sup>419</sup> The World Health Organization called “for the protection of all people inside the hospital.”<sup>420</sup> The director of the hospital and about 70 other healthcare workers remained detained in an unknown location.<sup>421</sup> On 14 December, Israeli soldiers, accompanied by tanks, raided the hospital for a third day in a row.<sup>422</sup> Those in the hospital were subjected to mass arrest and ill-treatment while Israeli soldiers expelled all 2,500 displaced civilians out of the facility.<sup>423</sup> Soldiers forced the wounded and healthcare workers to the hospital yard, while preventing medical staff from aiding 12 infants in intensive care and ten injured people in the emergency department, resulting in the death of two patients.<sup>424</sup>

On 16 December 2023, Israeli forces withdrew from Kamal Adwan Hospital after four days of invasion. The IOF reportedly detained 90 people from the hospital.<sup>425</sup> As they withdrew, Israeli military bulldozers flattened the tents of displaced civilians outside the hospital, killing and injuring an unconfirmed number of people.<sup>426</sup> Testimony from healthcare workers and patients recounts how soldiers used bulldozers to dig up bodies of the deceased in makeshift graveyards in the hospital’s courtyard, dragged and crushed the bodies with the bulldozers, and allowed dogs to maul the corpses.<sup>427</sup>

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419 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #69* (14 December 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-69>>.

420 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #68* (13 December 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-68>>.

421 *Ibid.*

422 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #69* (14 December 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-69>>.

423 *Ibid.*

424 *Ibid.*

425 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #71* (16 December 2023), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-71>>.

426 *Ibid.*; UN News, *Gaza hospital destroyed, WHO chief reiterates ceasefire call*, (18 December 2023), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1144887>>.

427 Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Kamal Adwan Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/79>>; Abeer Salman, Kareem Khadder, “Kamal Adwan: Doctors accuse Israeli troops of desecrating bodies and shooting civilians at hospital Israel says was Hamas ‘command center’”, *CNN* (23 December 2023), <<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/12/23/middleeast/kamal-adwan-hospital-gaza-israel-abuse-allegations-intl-cmd/index.html>>.



Al-Haq's FAI Unit geolocated and confirmed photos of hundreds of Palestinians lined up outside of the Indonesian Hospital by Israeli forces on 19 October 2024.

After the Israeli invasion, the Kamal Adwan Hospital rebuilt its capacity to provide limited medical services again by mid-January 2024.<sup>428</sup> The hospital soon became overwhelmed by the soaring rates of starvation taking hold in the north of Gaza. By March 2024, at least 15 children died at Kamal Adwan Hospital due

428 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #97* (19 January 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-97>>.



to malnutrition and starvation.<sup>429</sup> All 335,000 children under the age of five in the Gaza Strip were at high risk of severe malnutrition, with serious risks to their development and right to health.<sup>430</sup> The director of Kamal Adwan Hospital, Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, stated that the hospital received at least 50 malnourished children every day.<sup>431</sup> In April 2024, Israeli forces repeatedly prevented the delivery of fuel and medical supplies to Kamal Adwan and other hospitals.<sup>432</sup> The World Health Organization tried to organize a humanitarian mission to Kamal Adwan amid “already dire concerns about the growing number of babies being born too underweight to survive.”<sup>433</sup> However, the mission was delayed and aborted after the Israeli military detained the driver and amid growing safety concerns following a series of attacks targeting humanitarian aid workers.<sup>434</sup>

Once again, Israeli forces surrounded Kamal Adwan Hospital in May 2024, subjecting the hospital to evacuation orders and siege, rendering the facility non-functional, and prompting the World Health Organization Director-General to describe the situation in Gaza as “beyond catastrophic.”<sup>435</sup> The IOF shelled, bombed, and cut off access to the area. Multiple Israeli missiles struck the

429 UN HRC, *UN experts condemn ‘flour massacre’, urge Israel to end campaign of starvation in Gaza*, (5 March 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-experts-condemn-flour-massacre-urge-israel-end-campaign-starvation-gaza>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #128* (28 February 2024), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-128-enarhe>>.

430 UN HRC, *UN experts condemn ‘flour massacre’, urge Israel to end campaign of starvation in Gaza*, (5 March 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-experts-condemn-flour-massacre-urge-israel-end-campaign-starvation-gaza>>.

431 UN, *WHO/Gaza Kamal Adwan Hospital*, video (21 March 2024), <<https://media.un.org/unifeed/en/asset/d318/d3187812>>, (“In light of the famine sweeping through all the homes of citizens in the northern Gaza Strip, there’s an increase in the number of children coming to Kamal Adwan Hospital who are suffering advanced dehydration and malnutrition. Malnutrition is common now that our reception department are basically screening the incoming children for malnutrition cases and admitting them to the children’s department. We are receiving more than fifty malnutrition cases a day.”)

432 @DRTedros, X (22 April 2024), <https://tinyurl.com/2uveyymha>; @AJAEgypt, X (22 April 2024), <https://tinyurl.com/yhxrkwus>.

433 WHO, *Gaza Al-Shifa hospital destroyed*, (2 April 2024), <<https://www.unognewsroom.org/story/en/2123/gaza-al-shifa-hospital-destroyed-who-02-april-2024#>>.

434 *Ibid.*; WHO, *Six months of war leave Al-Shifa hospital in ruins, WHO mission reports*, (6 April 2024), <<https://www.who.int/news/item/06-04-2024-six-months-of-war-leave-al-shifa-hospital-in-ruins-who-mission-reports#>>; World Central Kitchen, *7 WCK team members killed in Gaza*, (1 April 2024), <<https://wck.org/news/gaza-team-update>>; UN Palestine, “*The number of aid workers killed in Gaza in the past year is the highest ever in a single crisis.*” *Statement by Principals of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory* (23 Sept. 2024), <<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/statement-by-iasc-23sept24/>>.

435 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #168* (20 May 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-168?>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #169* (22 May 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-169>>.

emergency department.<sup>436</sup> All healthcare workers and patients were reportedly evacuated from Kamal Adwan on 24 May 2024.<sup>437</sup> Over the next several months, Kamal Adwan again returned to providing limited services as a center for treating patients with acute malnutrition.<sup>438</sup> Fuel and medical supply shortages continued to threaten the hospital's operations.<sup>439</sup>



## Destruction of North Gaza

In October 2024, the Israeli military launched an intensified, renewed wave of genocidal violence against Palestinians in northern Gaza.<sup>440</sup> The IOF issued several evacuation orders to move south, affecting hundreds of thousands of people in the north, and hundreds of patients in the Indonesian, Kamal Adwan, and Al-Awda hospitals.<sup>441</sup> All three hospitals were already operating at a minimum capacity amid dire shortages of fuel and medical supplies. While emergency obstetrics care continued to be provided at Kamal Adwan and Al-Awda hospitals, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) stressed that, “the lives of newborns in incubators and women with pregnancy complications are hanging by a thread.”<sup>442</sup> On 18 and 19 October, Israeli strikes impacted all three remaining hospitals in the North Gaza governorate. Israeli strikes on the top floors and front yard of the Indonesian Hospital resulted in a total power outage, causing two critical-care patients to

436 Visualizing Palestine, *Disappeared Doctors: Israel's systematic torture of Palestinians health workers*, (October 2024), <<https://visualizingpalestine.org/visual/disappeared-doctors/>>.

437 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #170* (24 May 2024), <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-170?>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #206* (19 August 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-206-gaza-strip-enarhe>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #200* (5 August 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-200-gaza-strip-enarhe>>.

438 UN News, *WHO facilitates access of medical teams and supplies to two hospitals in northern Gaza*, (3 May 2024), <<https://news.un.org/ar/story/2024/05/1130591>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #206* (19 August 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-206-gaza-strip-enarhe>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #200* (5 August 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-200-gaza-strip-enarhe>>.

439 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #206* (19 August 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-206-gaza-strip-enarhe>>.

440 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #227* (8 October 2024), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-227-gaza-strip>>.

441 *Ibid.*

442 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #229* (15 October 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-229-gaza-strip>>.

die.<sup>443</sup> Al-Awda Hospital and the laboratory of the Kamal Adwan Hospital were also hit, resulting in a number of casualties.<sup>444</sup>

On 21 October, the World Health Organization led a humanitarian mission that managed to evacuate 14 critical patients and ten caregivers from Kamal Adwan to Al-Shifa Hospital, amid intense bombardment.<sup>445</sup> 100 patients remained hospitalized in Kamal Adwan as the wounded and dying continued to flood the emergency department.<sup>446</sup> Approximately 200 trauma patients arrived within 24 hours between 20 and 21 October, including 53 already deceased.<sup>447</sup> Blood units were exhausted, medical crews were working without food or rest, and a number of patients succumbed to their wounds amid resource and capacity constraints. Other wounded people were lying in the streets with no possibility of rescuing them.<sup>448</sup> Continued communication blackouts in the north makes it difficult to know the full severity of the increasingly dire situation.

On 25 October 2024, Israeli soldiers again raided Kamal Adwan Hospital, where 600 people were present.<sup>449</sup> All male staff members were detained.<sup>450</sup> MSF lost contact with the hospital.<sup>451</sup> Three nurses and a cleaner were injured, while three ambulances, a transport vehicle, and the solar electricity system were destroyed. Hours before the raid, the WHO led a humanitarian mission to the hospital. The mission team saw “mayhem and chaos,” with the emergency ward completely overflowing with “horrific trauma patients,” hospital staff “overwhelmed and under equipped to deal with the mass casualty situation, and hundreds of people seeking shelter in every corner of the facility.”<sup>452</sup>

443 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #231* (22 October 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-231-gaza-strip>>; UN OCHA, *Attacks on hospitals in northern Gaza* (19 October 2024), <<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/attacks-hospitals-northern-gaza-19-oct-2024-enarhe>>.

444 *Ibid.*

445 *Ibid.*

446 *Ibid.*

447 *Ibid.*

448 *Ibid.*

449 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #233* (29 October 2024), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-233-gaza-strip>>.

450 *Ibid.*

451 MSF, *MSF concerned following loss of contact with Dr. Obeid at Kamal Adwan hospital in north Gaza*, (26 October 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/msf-concerned-following-loss-contact-dr-obeid-kamal-adwan-hospital-north-gaza>>.

452 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #233* (29 October 2024), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-233-gaza-strip>>.



Photo reportedly showing Palestinians from Kamal Adwan Hospital forced to strip their clothes in the cold and walk single-file in front of Israeli tanks to a military checkpoint. 27 December 2024. [@OmarHamadDX]

By November, the Indonesian, Kamal Adwan, and Al-Awda hospitals, as well as the entire north of Gaza, were enduring an increasingly dire situation. Israeli forces continued to strike Kamal Adwan Hospital. Once again, Israeli forces waited until just hours after a WHO-led humanitarian mission left to strike the hospital on 3 November, injuring six children hospitalized in the facility, one of them critically.<sup>453</sup> Kamal Adwan “has been reduced from a hospital helping hundreds of patients with dozens of health workers, to a shell of itself.”<sup>454</sup> The renewed attacks on hospitals in the north of Gaza is the culmination of the IOF’s genocidal intentions to empty northern Gaza of Palestinians. On 5 November 2024, the IOF stated that “there is no intention of allowing the residents of the northern Gaza Strip to return to their homes.”<sup>455</sup> The IOF added that humanitarian aid would only be allowed to “regularly” enter the south of the Gaza Strip, but no aid will enter the north, since there are “no more civilians left.”<sup>456</sup>

453 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #235* (5 November 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-235-gaza-strip>>.

454 *Ibid.*

455 In a now deleted tweet, Amichai Stein wrote “The IDF announces: The division of the northern Gaza Strip into two parts has been completed...” @AmichaiStein1, X (6 November 2024), <<https://x.com/AmichaiStein1/status/1853853267442151899>> and archived at <<https://archive.fo/0TJKW>>.

456 *Ibid.*

In December 2024, following 80 days of siege, Israel raided Kamal Adwan Hospital, the last remaining hospital in North Gaza. Hundreds of patients, healthcare workers, and civilians were forced out of the hospital on 27 December as the Israeli military set the facility ablaze, burning the laboratory, surgical unit, engineering and maintenance department, operations theatre, and the medical store.<sup>457</sup> Video reveals Palestinians from the hospital, healthcare workers and patients believed to be among them, forced to strip their clothes in the cold and walk single file in front of Israeli tanks to a military checkpoint where many were reportedly beaten, interrogated, and had numbers written on their bodies.<sup>458</sup> The raid came a day after the Israeli military killed 50 people, including five healthcare workers, when an airstrike hit a building next to the hospital.<sup>459</sup> During the raid, Israeli soldiers detained healthcare workers, including the director of Kamal Adwan Hospital, Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya. The fate of Dr. Abu Safiya remains unknown at the time of writing. Several released detainees from Sde Teiman prison camp reported that Dr. Abu Safiya and other detained healthcare workers from Kamal Adwan Hospital were brought to the prison camp.<sup>460</sup> The Israeli authorities extended Dr. Abu Safiya's ban on access to legal counsel until at least 22 January 2025, and the Ashkelon Magistrates' Court extended his detention without charge until at least 13 February 2025.<sup>461</sup>

457 WHO, *Kamal Adwan Hospital out of service following a raid yesterday and repeated attacks since October*, (28 December 2024), <<https://www.who.int/news/item/28-12-2024-kamal-adwan-hospital-out-of-service-following-a-raid-today-and-repeated-attacks-since-october>>; Al Jazeera, Instagram (27 December 2024), <<https://www.instagram.com/aljazeeraenglish/reel/DEFQjySPynz/>>; Al Jazeera, *Israeli soldiers burn Gaza's Kamal Adwan Hospital, force hundreds to leave*, (27 December 2024), <<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/12/27/israeli-soldiers-burn-gazas-kamal-adwan-hospital-force-hundreds-to-leave>>; Maram Humaid, 'Global silence and abandonment' as Gaza's Kamal Adwan Hospital destroyed, Al Jazeera (30 December 2024), <<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2024/12/30/global-silence-and-abandonment-as-gazas-kamal-adwan-hospital-destroyed>>.

458 "Israeli soldiers burn Gaza's Kamal Adwan Hospital, force hundreds to leave", *Al Jazeera* (27 December 2024), <<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/12/27/israeli-soldiers-burn-gazas-kamal-adwan-hospital-force-hundreds-to-leave>>; Maram Humaid, 'Global silence and abandonment' as Gaza's Kamal Adwan Hospital destroyed", *Al Jazeera* (30 December 2024), <<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2024/12/30/global-silence-and-abandonment-as-gazas-kamal-adwan-hospital-destroyed>>.

459 WHO, *Kamal Adwan Hospital out of service following a raid yesterday and repeated attacks since October*, (28 December 2024), <<https://www.who.int/news/item/28-12-2024-kamal-adwan-hospital-out-of-service-following-a-raid-today-and-repeated-attacks-since-october>> Al Jazeera, Instagram (27 December 2024), <<https://www.instagram.com/aljazeeraenglish/reel/DEFQjySPynz/>>.

460 Abeer Salman, Tareq Al Hilou, Hira Humayun, and Irene Nasser, "Gaza hospital director held at notorious Israeli military detention center, recently released detainees say", *CNN* (30 December 2024), <<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/12/29/middleeast/kamal-adwan-hospital-director-detained-hnk-intl/index.html>>.

461 Al Mezan, *Israeli Court Extends Dr. Hossam Abu Safiya's Detention: Al Mezan Calls for Immediate Release and Safeguards for Detained Healthcare Workers* (9 January 2025), <<https://mezan.org/en/post/46631>>.





## Destruction of South Gaza

In the south, Al-Amal Hospital came under evacuation order and repeated invasion. On 29 January 2024, on the eighth day of siege, the IOF demanded those inside the hospital flee toward the Al-Mawasi area.<sup>462</sup> On 30 January, the IOF stormed the hospital yard while shooting and shelling the hospital, and demanding that those inside evacuate under gunpoint.<sup>463</sup> On 31 January, a healthcare worker was shot and killed near the hospital gate, and a woman and infant died in the hospital due to a lack of oxygen.<sup>464</sup> On 1 February, the IOF stormed the PRCS headquarters again, opening fire on the Al-Amal Hospital and ambulances before withdrawing.<sup>465</sup> Twelve Palestinians were killed, including a hospital staff member and volunteer, and six others were injured. Healthcare workers had to bury five people in the hospital courtyard because they were unable to reach the cemetery amid the siege.<sup>466</sup>

As the Israeli siege and repeated invasions of Al-Amal Hospital continued, the number of the killed increased and the hospital ran out of critical supplies to treat the wounded.<sup>467</sup> On 5 February 2024, hundreds of families evacuated the hospital along a designated route “amid an atmosphere of terror” due to “the ongoing panic and gunfire.”<sup>468</sup> That same day, the Israeli military summoned three PRCS senior staff, including Al-Amal Hospital’s director, for interrogation in an unknown location.<sup>469</sup>

462 PRCS, Facebook (29 January 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid0BTZmrNJ8HeKsrEoiwRiF86r8idxRrAKXBvP6SdK3CxoZfMPj95hBySSYNdFa35sl>>; PRCS, Facebook (January 2024) (interview inside Al-Amal Hospital), <<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1118751392807526>>.

463 PRCS, Facebook (30 January 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid08B6xEv3BDGEfMARuT8ocdCSVnnBehtVYop5Uhn69qkJUZYXDB6G5ASVjbZPL3WiHl>>.

464 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #107* (31 January 2024), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-107-enhe>>.

465 PRCS, Facebook (1 February 2024), <<https://tinyurl.com/4zkydxtD>>.

466 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #109* (2 February 2024), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-109-enarhe>>; PRCS, Facebook (1 February 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid02ScGaRoZcX7FXM6EjviELaUZShTPBsGFx6RRLA93MFZ7FuiVzozDkxW6Y9aTJLNUl>>.

467 Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Amal Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/76>>, citing regular PRCS updates 1-8 February 2024; PRCS, Facebook (9 February 2024), <<https://tinyurl.com/yeqbv4ss>>.

468 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #111* (5 February 2024), <<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-111enarhe>>.

469 *Ibid.*; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Amal Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/76>>.



A Palestinian rushes to Al-Awda Hospital with a child in critical condition after an airstrike by Israeli forces on the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza. He was later pronounced dead. 11 December 2024. [Yousef Zaanoun]

On 9 February 2024, Israeli forces invaded Al-Amal Hospital for ten hours, destroying medical equipment and detaining, beating, and interrogating medical staff while preventing workers, patients, and civilians from drinking water or using the restroom.<sup>470</sup> The IOF arrested eight PRCS staff, including four doctors, as well as four wounded patients and five patient companions.<sup>471</sup> The PRCS reported that the IOF stole money from workers, patients, and civilians inside the hospital, as well as communication devices, including computers and radios.<sup>472</sup> Around 8,000 patients and displaced civilians were forced to evacuate the hospital at the orders of the IOF, with a limit of one caretaker per patient allowed to remain.<sup>473</sup> After 40 days of siege and repeated Israeli invasion, the Al-Amal Hospital was rendered out

470 PRCS, Facebook, (9 February 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid02VAMjWdr1PPR7wodbBKMWe6xtK5rXCB9pViYBZJ29D8Kc2CfQWiCpjiipRheE7dLYI>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Amal Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/76>>.

471 *Ibid.*

472 *Ibid.*

473 @MSF\_uk, X (14 February 2024), <[https://x.com/MSF\\_uk/status/1757698097759621584](https://x.com/MSF_uk/status/1757698097759621584)>.

of service on 26 March 2024.<sup>474</sup> The PRCS expressed “its disappointment that Al-Amal Hospital was taken out of service after the international community failed to provide the necessary protection for its staff, patients, and displaced persons.”<sup>475</sup>

Meanwhile, Israeli forces also invaded the Nasser Hospital on 13 February 2024. An Israeli military bulldozer destroyed the north gate of the hospital, followed by a tank.<sup>476</sup> Soldiers ordered some 10,000 displaced civilians sheltering in the hospital to leave.<sup>477</sup> MSF stated that:

People have been forced into an impossible situation: stay at Nasser hospital against the Israeli military’s orders and become a potential target, or exit the compound into an apocalyptic landscape where bombings and evacuation orders are a part of daily life . . . Hospitals should be considered as safe places and shouldn’t even be evacuated in the first place.<sup>478</sup>

The following day, the IOF sent a detained Palestinian man, 25-year-old Jamal Abu al-Ola, into Nasser Hospital to again order displaced civilians to leave the hospital. His hands were zip tied, his head was wrapped with a yellow cloth, and he was wearing a white hazmat suit. According to those in the hospital, he warned civilians that “everybody should leave” because “they are going to destroy everything here.”<sup>479</sup> When he returned to the soldiers after complying with their orders, he was executed.<sup>480</sup>

474 PRCS, *PRCS’s Al-Amal Hospital is Out of Service*, (26 March 2024), <<https://www.palestinercs.org/en/Article/11871/PRCS%E2%80%99s-Al-Amal-Hospital-is-Out-of-Service>>; PRCS, Facebook, (9 February 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid02VAMjWdR1PPR7wodbBKMWe6xtK5rXCB9pViYBZJ29D8Kc2CfQWiCpjjipRhEE7dLYl>>; PRCS, Facebook, (25 March 2024), <<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineRCS/posts/pfbid0mhZGFTXiZZUxkB13oEkHfwhmk3KZ6pgVEqZDSwK5rUahz9BmSgMmY5yXx85syddal>>; Institute for Palestine Studies, *Documenting the Targeting and Destruction of the Health Sector in the Gaza Strip, Al-Amal Hospital*, <<https://gazahcsector.palestine-studies.org/en/node/76>>.

475 PRCS, *PRCS’s Al-Amal Hospital is Out of Service*, (26 March 2024), <<https://www.palestinercs.org/en/Article/11871/PRCS%E2%80%99s-Al-Amal-Hospital-is-Out-of-Service>>.

476 MSF, *How the Israeli army besieged and attacked Nasser hospital*, (3 April 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/gaza-how-israeli-army-besieged-and-attacked-nasser-hospital>>.

477 *Ibid.*; MSF, *Displaced people forced to evacuate have nowhere to go in Gaza*, (14 February 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/displaced-people-forced-to-evacuate-have-nowhere-to-go-gaza>>; @MOHMediaGaza, Telegram (13 February 2024), <<https://t.me/MOHMediaGaza/4984>>.

478 *Ibid.*

479 Chantal Da Silva, Matthew Mulligan, *A man with his hands bound urged a Gaza hospital to evacuate. Hours later, he was shot dead.*, NBC News (22 February 2024), <<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/israel-amas-nasser-hospital-man-shot-dead-evacuation-warning-rcna139978>>.

480 MSF, *How the Israeli army besieged and attacked Nasser hospital*, (3 April 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/gaza-how-israeli-army-besieged-and-attacked-nasser-hospital>>; UN OCHA, *Flash Update #119* (15 February 2024), <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-119>>.



Jamal Abu al-Ola, in IOF custody, warning civilians to leave Nasser Hospital. He was reportedly executed after carrying out the IOF's orders. [ @MetrasWebsiteX ]

Humanitarian access to Nasser Hospital, “the backbone of the health system in southern Gaza” was repeatedly denied.<sup>481</sup> Patients died during the invasion due to a lack of electricity.<sup>482</sup> Food and water grew scarce.<sup>483</sup> Israeli soldiers detained tens of people, including a MSF staff member.<sup>484</sup> Footage from the invasion shows how Israeli forces lined up detained Palestinians on their knees, hands behind their head, and stripped of their clothing.<sup>485</sup> Scrubs are visible in the footage, indicating that healthcare workers were among the detained. MSF declared that the situation in Nasser Hospital “is yet another example of the way healthcare facilities are being dismantled one by one in this war.

481 UN OCHA, *Flash Update #119* <<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-119>>; MSF, *How the Israeli army besieged and attacked Nasser hospital*, (3 April 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/gaza-how-israeli-army-besieged-and-attacked-nasser-hospital>>; @DrTedros, X (18 February 2024), <<https://x.com/DrTedros/status/1759104945993761060>>; WHO, *WHO transfers critical patients out of Nasser Medical Complex, fears for safety of remaining patients*, (20 February 2024), <<https://www.who.int/news/item/20-02-2024-who-transfers-critical-patients-out-of-nasser-medical-complex--fears-for-safety-of-remaining-patients>>.

482 MSF, *How the Israeli army besieged and attacked Nasser hospital*, (3 April 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/gaza-how-israeli-army-besieged-and-attacked-nasser-hospital>>.

483 *Ibid.*

484 *Ibid.*

485 *Ibid*; BBC, *Verified footage shows people detained after raid on Nasser Hospital*, (12 March 2024), <<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-middle-east-68539703>>.

Even though they were initially told they could stay inside the facility, medical staff and patients were put in danger in a place where they should have been protected."<sup>486</sup> Upon the Israeli military withdrawal from Nasser Hospital on 21 February 2024, 70 healthcare workers remained detained.<sup>487</sup>

In April 2024, Palestinian Civil Defense recovered 392 bodies from at least three mass graves on the grounds of Nasser Hospital, including women, children, and elderly.<sup>488</sup> 227 bodies remained unidentified due to mutilation or decomposition.<sup>489</sup> The director of Nasser Hospital, Dr. Atef Hout recalled:

During the weeks of Israeli siege and attacks on the hospital, we were forced to bury around 250 bodies, mainly patients who died from lack of medical treatment, or people killed by Israeli fire. However, the Israeli army opened the graves and abducted 80 bodies which they claimed they needed to check for hostages, and later returned the bodies through the Rafah crossing to Najjar Hospital.<sup>490</sup>

However, many bodies reportedly remain unaccounted for.<sup>491</sup>

486 MSF, *How the Israeli army besieged and attacked Nasser hospital*, (3 April 2024), <<https://www.msf.org/gaza-how-israeli-army-besieged-and-attacked-nasser-hospital>>.


487 *Ibid.*

488 MAP, *A month after mass graves discovered at Gaza hospitals, international investigations and accountability are essential*, (10 June 2024), <<https://www.map.org.uk/news/archive/post/1593-a-month-after-mass-graves-discovered-at-gaza-hospitals-international-investigations-and-accountability-are-essential>>; UN News, *Mass graves in Gaza show victims' hands were tied, says UN rights office* (23 April 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1148876>>.

489 *Ibid.*

490 *Ibid.*

491 *Ibid.*



## VI. CONCLUSION: ISRAEL'S SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION OF GAZA'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IS A PATTERN OF GENOCIDE

Israel's systematic destruction of the healthcare system in the Gaza Strip constitutes a genocidal pattern of acts. By deliberately targeting hospitals and healthcare infrastructure in the Gaza Strip and rendering every single hospital out of service while carrying out mass killings of Palestinian civilians, Israel is inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, is preventing births within the group, and is committing violations of international humanitarian law.

As the genocide continues unabated in Gaza, the Israeli military is spreading its campaign against the Palestinian healthcare system to the West Bank, utilizing the same tactics. The Israeli military is intensifying its raids across the West Bank, deliberately destroying civilian infrastructure, and repeatedly violating the protected status of hospitals. As a result, Palestinians in the West Bank are facing increasing difficulty in reaching medical care.<sup>492</sup> On 28 August 2024, Israel launched the largest raid of the West Bank in more than two decades, specifically targeting the Jenin, Tulkarem, and Tubas areas for seven days. Hundreds of Israeli ground troops invaded the north of the West Bank, advancing in bulldozers, armoured vehicles, and supported by drones and fighter jets that carried out airstrikes. During the incursion, the Israeli military killed at least 39 Palestinians

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492 MSF, *Palestinians struggle to access medical care in the West Bank as Israeli raids intensify*, (5 September 2024), <<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/palestinians-struggle-access-medical-services-west-bank-israeli-military-raids-intensify>>.

and injured 140 others.<sup>493</sup> Israeli forces repeatedly attacked healthcare workers and ambulances, and surrounded the MSF-supported Khalil Suliman Hospital in Jenin while those trapped inside struggled to access water and electricity.<sup>494</sup> A paramedic trained by MSF testified that Israeli soldiers entered his home and threatened him, stating, “Israeli forces broke down my door. I informed them several times that I was a volunteer for medical organizations, but they dragged me out and kicked my back before pointing a weapon at my head.”<sup>495</sup>

More than 795 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces and settlers in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, since October 2023.<sup>496</sup> On average, Israel has killed one Palestinian child every two days.<sup>497</sup>

Israel’s campaign of genocide against the Palestinian healthcare system is further embodied by its accelerated offensive against UNRWA. UNRWA’s provision of direct services to the Palestinian people, including education, physical and mental healthcare, relief and social services, infrastructure and camp improvement, microfinance, and emergency response services, is a vital lifeline to millions of Palestinians.<sup>498</sup> UNRWA’s existence reinforces the rightful status of Palestinian refugees, and the rights and responsibilities this imparts, including the right of Palestinian refugees to return home.<sup>499</sup> As such, Israel considers the existence of UNRWA a threat, as Israel continues to deny Palestinian refugees their right of return. UNRWA facilities have not only been directly and physically attacked throughout Israel’s genocidal assault on the Gaza Strip, but the Israeli Government has made accusations that UNRWA workers and facilities are tied to armed groups, causing the agency to lose hundreds of millions of dollars of international funding despite an independent review concluding that Israel did not provide evidence to support such allegations.<sup>500</sup> Furthermore, on 28 October 2024, the

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493 MSF, *Palestinians struggle to access medical care in the West Bank as Israeli raids intensify*, (5 September 2024), <<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/palestinians-struggle-access-medical-services-west-bank-israeli-military-raids-intensify>>.

494 *Ibid.*

495 *Ibid.*

496 UN OCHA, *Occupied Palestinian Territory* [accessed 30 December 2024], <<https://www.ochaopt.org/>>.

497 UNICEF, *Child casualties in the West Bank skyrocket in the past nine months* (22 July 2024), <<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/child-casualties-west-bank-skyrocket-past-nine-months>>.

498 Al-Haq, *UNRWA* (26 December 2024) p. 7-10, <[https://www.alhaq.org/cached\\_uploads/download/2024/12/26/qa-unrwa-one-page-view-1-1735211939.pdf](https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2024/12/26/qa-unrwa-one-page-view-1-1735211939.pdf)>.

499 *Ibid.*, p. 14.

500 *Ibid.*, p. 13-22.



Inside Nasser Hospital following an Israeli attack. March 2024. [MSF]

Knesset passed a bill banning UNRWA from operating in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.<sup>501</sup> If brought into effect, it will have devastating effects for the health and future of millions of Palestinians. The systematic destruction of the Palestinian healthcare system, and with it, the future of generations of Palestinians, is completed by the destruction of UNRWA.

Israel continues to operate with impunity, deliberately targeting Palestinian healthcare across all of occupied Palestine in an effort to bring about the physical destruction of the Palestinian people. The international community has failed the Palestinian people due to their political unwillingness to take action to prevent further loss of life and destruction.

501 *Ibid*, p. 32; UN News, 'Potentially deadly' consequences could arise from Israel's UNRWA ban: UNICEF, (31 October 2024), <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/10/1156331>>.



## Recommendations



### Al-Haq urges Third States and the international community to:

1. Name and condemn Israel's ongoing genocide by calling for a ceasefire and taking all action available to impose a ceasefire and prevent Israel from continuing its genocide of the Palestinian people;
2. Impose a two-way arms embargo on Israel. States continuing to transfer arms to Israel are in grave breach of the Arms Trade Treaty, which requires States to terminate arms transfers to Israel amid ample evidence of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity being committed. In particular, the United States, Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, and France must cease all arms transfers to Israel or risk facing charges for complicity in genocide;
3. Take direct action to intervene and put a stop to Israel's annihilation of North Gaza, destruction of the last remaining hospitals, and any plans to "empty the north" to create a "buffer zone," thus annexing more Palestinian land;
4. Support, fund UNRWA and take steps to ensure the continuation of UNRWA in Palestine, which is providing critical life-saving aid while under direct attack by the Israeli military and government;
5. Demand open and unimpeded access to the Gaza Strip, and send international investigators to investigate conditions in detention facilities, including documented instances of rape, sexual violence, torture, physical and mental abuse, and medical neglect of detainees;
6. Call for all healthcare workers and all those arbitrarily arrested, disappeared and detained to be released immediately;
7. Call for an end to Israel's arbitrary detention of Palestinians, particularly as an increasing number of Palestinians are being killed in Israeli detention; and provide for the rehabilitation of the sick, injured, and detained from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem;



8. Call for the release of all Palestinian political prisoners, and to end Israel's widespread and systematic use of arbitrary detention and commission of torture and other ill-treatment in Israeli prisons and detention centers, as well as to end the trial of Palestinian civilians, including children, in the Israeli military court system;
9. End the siege of Gaza; and demand and provide for the open and unimpeded access of all humanitarian, medical supplies and reconstruction materials to enter the Gaza Strip at scale, including the removal of Israel's "dual-use" policy;
10. Provide for the immediate evacuation of children for medical treatment, and those who require treatment abroad, and ensure their safe return to Gaza;
11. Recognize and call for end to Israel's settler colonial apartheid regime, rooted in death, displacement, land theft, racial oppression, domination, strategic fragmentation, and persecution of the Palestinian people as a whole, causing an ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people;
12. Demand Israel end any and all practices of intimidation, harassment, smear campaigns, spying, detention, mistreatment, and other forms of silencing of human rights defenders and civil society organizations for their opposition to genocide, settler colonialism, and apartheid;
13. Isolate Israel- diplomatically, economically, politically  
Take concrete actions to prevent Israel from continuing its crimes, including the severing of all diplomatic, political, economic, academic, and any other relations with Israel, and call for Israel to be unseated from the UN General Assembly in accordance with the Uniting for Peace Resolution.
  - Impose targeted sanctions against Israel;
  - Unseat Israel from the UN General Assembly, in accordance with the Uniting for Peace Resolution;
  - Revoke Israel's UN membership fully as it continues to wage

attacks against the UN in attempts to delegitimize the institution as a whole;

- Sever all diplomatic relations with Israel;
- Sever all political relations with Israel;
- Sever all economic and trade relations with Israel;
- Sever all academic relations and university exchange programs with Israel;
- For countries in the Middle East and North Africa region, end and avoid normalization deals, commonly signed for the promise of lucrative business deals at the expense of Palestinian life.



#### International Criminal Accountability:

14. Arrest and prosecute perpetrators and enablers of genocide and other crimes, including dual nationals serving in the Israeli Occupying Force, as well upholding legal obligations to carry out the International Criminal Court (ICC) arrests warrants for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant;
15. Call for specific charges of genocide to be brought for the systematic destruction of Gaza's hospitals and healthcare system intended to destroy Palestinians in Gaza, in addition to the stated charges brought for persecution on the basis of the deprivation of the fundamental right to life and health by preventing medicine and medical supplies from entering Gaza, inflicting extreme pain and suffering by means of inhumane acts on persons in need of treatment;
16. Arrest and prosecute other known responsible individuals, including but not limited to Israel's Minister of Finance, Bezalel Smotrich, Minister of National Security, Itamer Ben Gvir, army Colonel Moshe Tetro, and other government officials and spokespeople who have facilitated or incited to genocide;
17. Hold current and former members of government criminally accountable for imposing an illegal 17-year siege and blockade on Gaza, which intentionally dismantled the health system, and deprived Palestinians

- of medical treatment, including but not limited to Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu; former Prime Ministers Yair Lapid, and Ehud Olmert; and current and former Presidents of Israel, Isaac Herzog and Reuven Rivlin;
18. Third States must arrest and prosecute perpetrators of genocide and other crimes, including the killing and torture of healthcare workers, and activate any universal jurisdiction statutes in their jurisdiction;
  19. Gather, preserve, and submit evidence of genocide for future prosecutions;
  20. Uphold the integrity of the ICC by responding to unfounded attacks upon the institution;
  21. States parties to the Rome Statute to increase financial contributions to the Court to ensure in particular the continuation of the Situation in the State of Palestine.



#### International Court of Justice:

22. Call on States to make interventions on the question of genocide in the International Court of Justice proceedings in *South Africa v. Israel*; and in the forthcoming Advisory Opinion pursuant to Resolution 79/232 on Israel's obligations in relation to the presence and activities of the United Nations agencies and bodies, including UNRWA, international organizations and third States, in and in relation to the OPT, to provide *inter alia*, unhindered humanitarian aid, basic services and humanitarian and development assistance, for the benefit of the Palestinian civilian population, and in support of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.
23. Call for additional Provisional Measures, particularly with regard to the worsening situation since May 2024, as the last remaining functional hospitals in North Gaza have been destroyed, healthcare workers detained, tortured, killed, and forcibly disappeared, as well as increasing attacks against UNRWA, including Israel's outlawing of the agency's operations in the Palestinian territories.



### United Nations Commission of Inquiry:

24. Investigate Israel's genocide on Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, recognizing the settler colonial apartheid regime as the root cause of the genocide;
25. Investigate genocidal acts in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, including but not limited to killings of Palestinians, causing serious bodily or mental harm to Palestinians, and deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of the Palestinian people;



### United Nations Special Procedures; Special Rapporteur on Health:

26. Continue to examine and acknowledge the detrimental human rights impacts of Israel's genocidal colonial violence as well as Israel's apartheid regime against the Palestinian people;
27. Address, in upcoming reports, how Israel has deliberately targeted Palestinian health and care workers in Gaza and how it has systematically destroyed the healthcare system as an act of genocide;



### European Union:

28. Call for an immediate end to all arms sales to Israel, and end all EU research projects with Israel including under the EU-Horizon Funding scheme;
29. Suspend all diplomatic, political, economic, and academic ties with Israel, including suspending with immediate effect, the EU-Israel Association Agreement;



### Corporate Responsibility:

30. Ensure that individuals, corporate actors, and other for-profit entities and nonprofit organizations involved in and/or complicit in the commission of the crime of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity are held to account through all available mechanisms at the national, regional, and international levels, including but not limited to:
  - Weapons manufacturers, such as Boeing, BAE Systems, Caterpillar, Elbit Systems, General Dynamics, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Palantir Technologies, Rheinmetall AG, Raytheon, and all weapons carriers, such as Maersk;
  - Technology providers, such as Google, Microsoft, and Apple, which provide, among other things, software, cloud services, AI computing, and infrastructure for Israel's military to carry out its targeting and subjugation of the Palestinian population;
  - Nonprofits purporting to engage in charitable endeavors in Israel which financially support the illegal settlement enterprise, which should be stripped of their charitable status and tax-related benefits;
  - Multinational medical and pharmaceutical companies, which must cease partnerships with and terminate activities in research and development centers located in Israel.



### Healthcare Workers:

31. Call on all doctors who have sworn a Hippocratic oath to call for an end to the destruction of Gaza's healthcare system and the killing of its doctors and healthcare workers, and use their collective voice, such as through healthcare unions or associations to bring an end to this genocide;
32. Demand unimpeded access for doctors and medical supplies to enter the Gaza Strip so that doctors may provide healing to sick and wounded Palestinians, and call for their home States to provide Palestinians access to urgent medical treatment abroad.



SPECIAL SURGERY BUILDING

العمليات الجراحية الخاصة

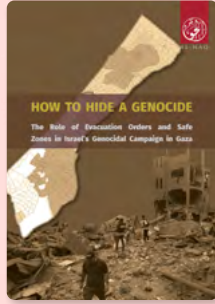
A stack of several books is shown against a light pink background. The top book is open, with its pages fanned out. The text "READ ALSO ..." is printed in a bold, dark font on the top book's cover.

**READ ALSO ...**





**Q & A: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East - UNRWA**



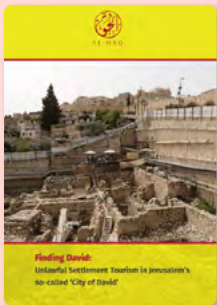
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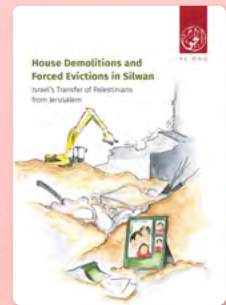
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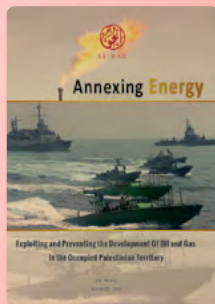
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AL - HAQ

### **About Al-Haq**

Al-Haq is an independent Palestinian non-governmental human rights organisation based in Ramallah in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Established in 1979 to protect and promote human rights and the rule of law in the OPT, the organisation has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Al-Haq documents violations of the individual and collective rights of Palestinians in the OPT, irrespective of the identity of the perpetrator, and seeks to end such breaches by way of advocacy before national and international mechanisms and by holding the violators accountable. Al-Haq conducts research; prepares reports, studies and interventions on the breaches of international human rights and humanitarian law in the OPT; and undertakes advocacy before local, regional and international bodies. Al-Haq also cooperates with Palestinian civil society organisations and governmental institutions in order to ensure that international human rights standards are reflected in Palestinian law and policies. Al-Haq has a specialised international law library for the use of its staff and the local community.

Al-Haq is the West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists - Geneva, and is a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Habitat International Coalition (HIC), ESCR-Net - The International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC), and the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO). In 2018, Al-Haq was a co-recipient of the French Republic Human Rights Award, whereas in 2019, Al-Haq was the recipient of the Human Rights and Business Award. In 2020, Al-Haq received the Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award presented by the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR) for its outstanding work in the field of corporate accountability. Al-Haq was awarded the prestigious Bruno Kreisky Prize and the MESA Academic Freedom Award in 2022.

